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- Plugged in. Allison Kaplan Sommer profiles the incredible David Reichmann of Bnei Brak, who is building an international telecommunications network. Magazine.
- Still funny after all these years. Penny Starr interviews Danny Sanderson. Time Out.
- Tel Aviv's rich architectural heritage is buried under layers of peeling paint. Helen Kaye unstrips the decay. Magazine.

## Police consider probe of Ben-Eliezer

BILL HUTMAN

THE Police Serious Crimes Division is considering opening an investigation into alleged financial wrongdoings by Benjamin Ben-Eliezer before he assumed office as Housing Minister.

Police, however, have yet to receive a request from Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair to investigate alleged wrongdoing by the minister uncovered in the state comptroller's report.

Cmdr. Yossi Levy, head of the Investigations Department, said the Serious Crimes Division is reviewing material against Ben-Eliezer turned over by the Movement for Quality Government.

The material details two allegedly illegal land deals by Ben-Eliezer. It also includes documents revealing apparent conflict-of-interest violations by Ben-Eliezer when he served as the coordinator of government activities in the territories.

Movement legal adviser Yonatan Yuval charged the police with not taking the material seriously, apparently for political reasons, when the movement presented it more than two months ago. He said police had yet to speak with a single person mentioned in the material.

Levy confirmed investigators had only reviewed the written material, saying this was policy when deciding whether there is reason to open a formal investigation. He declined to say when a decision on whether to investigate Ben-Eliezer would be made.

Meanwhile, police announced that Ben-Yair ordered investigations opened into allegations against the Housing, Communications, and Absorption ministries contained in last year's comptroller's report. He also ordered an investigation into alleged wrongdoings by the Emanuel local council uncovered in the latest report, released on Wednesday, the police spokesman said.

Police sources said other material uncovered by the comptroller in her 1994 report would likely be turned over to the police at a later date. (See story, Page 2)

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Striking social workers demonstrate yesterday in Tel Aviv, demanding that their wages be increased. Several dozen mayors and heads of local authorities joined the more than 2,000 protesters in a show of support. (Israel Sun)

## Impasse in social workers' negotiations

DAN IZENBERG and JOSE ROSENFELD

NEGOTIATIONS between the striking social workers and the Treasury were still at an impasse late last night, as the strike entered its thirtieth day.

Treasury wage director Shalom Granit was meeting with social workers union head Eli Ben-Gera in an attempt to bridge the gap between the sides, at least enough to end the strike and allow wage negotiations to resume.

Prior to the meeting, Granit ordered the social workers' employers to withhold their pay from April 21, when the strike began, based on instructions from the attorney-general.

Granit called on the social workers to end their strike and return to the negotiating table to stop the great suffering of the needy population.

In contacts with the social workers, during the past few days, there was an attempt to build a new wage scale that will raise their salaries, as part of the government's overall wage policy, Granit said.

Earlier yesterday, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir said yesterday that she would sign emergency back-to-work orders "with a trembling hand" for 70 social workers if the Treasury and social workers union did not resolve their wage dispute.

Namir also blasted the Histadrut for not

supporting the social workers. She said she had tried to protect them, but that her first responsibility was to the deprived population the social workers serve.

"If some catastrophe should happen - and I have personally intervened in dozens of cases which could have ended in murder - I will be responsible," Namir told the handful of MKs in the plenum in an emotional speech. "My hand trembles [at the thought of signing] back-to-work orders. It goes against my worldview. But what will I tell the socially deprived community?"

Namir said those ordered back to work would include juvenile investigators, and social workers carrying out specific tasks designed to protect the public.

Namir complained that she had been put into a difficult position because of the conflict between her responsibilities to the underprivileged and her sympathy for workers in general and the wage demands of the social workers in particular. She charged that she had been sucked into a vacuum created by the Histadrut.

"Perhaps someone can explain to me why the Histadrut is not supporting the social workers' strike," she asked her Labor Party colleagues. "Histadrut Secretary-General Haim

Haberfeld and Ephraim Ziloni, head of the trade union section, are not supporting the strike. [Haberfeld] told me he did not want to get too involved so as not to leave himself open to charges he had exploited the strike for his election campaign."

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat accused the social workers of wanting increases beyond what the academics and engineers in the public service had received and said the government could not grant them.

"All this talk to the effect that we are trying to break them or place them in a wage bracket that is less than others is simply not true," he said. "We want to end this strike. However, there are some things we cannot do, even if there is a strike, and even if the strike hurts the weaker segment of the population."

"If the government is confronted with the [current] demands of the social workers, I will recommend that we do not accept them. The government must make every effort to reach a settlement with them. But it cannot reach a settlement at any price," Shohat said.

He blasted Knesset members who have been complaining about budget-busting wage agreements the government has signed, while at the same time supporting striking workers' demands.

## Shohat rips Ben-Eliezer's plan to lower housing costs

JOSE ROSENFELD

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat yesterday blasted Housing Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer's proposal to give contractors purchase guarantees in high demand areas as a recipe for wasting billions of shekels without lowering housing prices.

The recommendation is included in a package designed to bring down housing prices which Ben-Eliezer will propose to the cabinet on Sunday.

Shohat warned that the purchase guarantees will eat up precious budget resources and divert money from education and investment in infrastructure. "This is a very bad decision," he said.

There is no need for incentives to sell apartments in areas where there is a high demand for housing, explained Shohat. In addition, private contractors will stop building without purchase guarantees, since the government will ultimately determine prices instead

of the marketplace. As proof, Shohat cited the sharp drop in private construction during the period of government-funded construction.

It will also be politically impossible to limit the extension of the guarantees only to high demand areas, warned Shohat. "It will spread like wildfire and cover the whole country," he said.

"If the cabinet agrees on Sunday to provide buy back guarantees for housing, you will know that it decided to waste NIS 10 billion in national resources," Finance Ministry Director-General Aharon Fogel added.

Fogel noted that the previous public building program ended up costing the government NIS 10b. over a period of less than three years. He also pointed out that by ending the program, the Labor government was able to change budget priorities and add funding

and complete construction within a rigid schedule, as well as with the program to market land for 50,000 housing units a year.

Shohat said that he would support giving contractors bonuses for finishing construction early.

The Treasury is presently in the final stages of negotiations with the banks to guarantee 10 percent of the builder's loan portfolio to reduce capital requirements and thereby ease access to credit.

Ben-Eliezer's proposals will also include provisions to increase the supply of foreign labor to make up for the closure-induced shortage of construction workers. According to Shohat, out of the 25,000 approved foreign workers, only 6,000 have arrived.

Sunday's cabinet meeting promises to be very heated as Shohat made clear that he did not intend to compromise on the issue of the government re-entering the housing business.

## Crisis in Histadrut coalition talks between Labor and Ram

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE negotiations between Ram - the Ramon-Meretz-Shas list - and Labor over the Histadrut coalition reached a crisis yesterday, with Ram leaders claiming Labor was reneging on agreements reached earlier this week.

Ram leaders said yesterday that at Tuesday's preliminary meeting, it was decided to convene the Histadrut's executive committee on June 2 in order to call the conven-

tion no later than mid-June. This convention will elect the new executive committee, in accordance with the new political balance established in last week's Histadrut elections.

It was also agreed by Labor leaders at that meeting to undo all the coalition agreements made by local labor council secretaries with

the Likud.

Meir Gatt, a senior Labor faction member and head of the Histadrut's personnel section said "the Histadrut is more complicated than those who think they can distribute the booty overnight among themselves and live off the workers' backs for the next four years."

No date has been set for continuing the coalition talks.

## US ambassador to Israel accepts academic post

WASHINGTON (AP) - Career diplomat Edward Djerejian is leaving his post as US ambassador to Israel after less than a year to become director of a public policy institute at Rice University in Houston, Texas.

The institute is endowed in the name of former secretary of state James Baker, whom Djerejian

served as a Middle East adviser during the Bush administration. Djerejian, 55, is a 32-year veteran of the Foreign Service who also served as ambassador to Syria, and later as assistant secretary of state overseeing the Middle East.

He will assume his new duties in August at the start of the 1994-95 academic year.

## Weizman issues Id al-Adha message to Moslems, Druse

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman issued greetings to the country's Moslem and Druse residents on the occasion of Id al-Adha, the three-day Feast of the Sacrifice, which begins tomorrow.

In his message, Weizman expressed the hope that Moslems and Druse would celebrate the

holiday "in the spirit of peace that had begun to spread through our region."

"When peace comes," he added, "we will be able to exploit all the tremendous resources in the region to develop it for the benefit of all its residents." (Iltm)

## Palestinians bar Israelis with guns from Jericho synagogue

JON IMMANUEL

ISRAELIS visiting the ancient synagogue in Jericho are no longer permitted to carry guns, Palestinian Police chief Gen. Nasser Yusef said yesterday, thereby opening the way for the first important dispute over the interpretation of the Cairo agreement.

His demand followed his call the previous day for "organizing the possession of weapons" held by Palestinians, a call which Hamas, assuming that is a demand to turn in their weapons, has rejected.

In a statement from Damascus on Wednesday, Abu Mahmoud Mustafa, a Hamas spokesman, was quoted in yesterday's *Al-Kuds* as saying that the Palestinian Police should not disarm Palestinians before Israeli soldiers and settlers are disarmed.

The carrying of arms by Israeli civilians in Palestinian-controlled territory has thus become an especially sensitive matter to Yusef.

"The Cairo agreement does not permit visiting this place with weapons," Yusef told reporters during a visit to the Shalom Al Yisrael synagogue and yeshiva, and said it would no longer be permitted. He arrived from Gaza to take part in a meeting of the joint security coordination and co-operation committee, which he heads together with former Gaza commander Brig.-Gen. Yomtov Samia.

The meeting was devoted almost entirely to this issue and concluded without any decision being taken. The meeting was arranged following Palestinian Police claims that the behavior of the Israeli visitors was provocative and the visitors' counter-claims of vandalism by police.

An IDF source said that "since there are no new guidelines, we can assume the settlers may continue to bring their weapons for the time being."

The head of the yeshiva, Rabbi Mordechai Rabinovitch said, "We come armed according to the instructions of the OC Central Command [Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran], consistent with the agreement signed by [Yitzhak] Rabin and [Yasser] Arafat."

"The only alternative to being armed would be to have a stationary IDF guard unit, but apparently only mobile patrols are permitted," he said.

It is not clear what action the Palestinian Police will take if the Jewish visitors return to the site armed today, but a security official close to the Israeli-Palestinian talks said he believes a solution must be found soon.

One possibility would be to coordinate times and allow the settlers to go in with the joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols, which travel up and down Route 90, a few meters from the synagogue, but that would limit the "free access" promised in the Cairo agreement. Security sources note that the Palestinians have a case for saying

that carrying arms is not in accordance with "accepted rules of behavior in holy sites," which the Cairo agreement demands.

A security official noted that the synagogue, built around a 5th-century mosaic, had been a national park and not a religious site before the Oslo agreement. National Religious Party MK Hanan Porat's assertion that it has been used as a synagogue for four years "is a lie," he said.

Yesterday, police in Gaza told 70 Fatah Hawks that they must give up their guns or join the police force. The Hawks agreed to join the force on condition they could choose to which branch they would belong. This was accepted, by Hawks leader Ismail Abu Kumsan, a Gaza source said.

The police are heaving less luck with Izzadin Kassam, the armed wing of Hamas. Yesterday, two members of the group kidnapped a woman, allegedly a "collaborator," in the Rimal neighborhood of Gaza City, eyewitnesses said. They said the two identified themselves as members of Izzadin Kassam and fired in the air to keep people from interfering. Gaza sources reported.

Police visited the woman's home to investigate the kidnapping.

According to an April 22 Hamas agreement with Fatah, attacks on alleged "collaborators" were to be suspended for a month.

Hamas issued a statement in Gaza mosques warning police against hunting them down.

"We would like to whisper in the ears of the Palestinian police ... we do not need another occupation or oppression," the statement said, according to Reuters.

Yesterday Amin Hindi, the overall security chief of the Palestinian autonomous areas, arrived in Gaza from Egypt. Israeli considers Hindi to be one of the planners of the Munich massacre of Israeli sportsmen. Hindi declined to be interviewed by reporters.

In a leaflet distributed by the "Palestinian National Authority," the police yesterday called on the people to cooperate with them in their work.

Since the inception of autonomy in Jericho, there have been several dozen cases of vandalism and theft reported by Jordan Valley settlements. The most serious was the theft of an Uzi during the burglary of a house in Moshav Tomer.

In another incident, a truck from the Jenin area cut the phone line between Tomer and Phasael by hooking the wire to the back of his truck and starting to drive. Some 40 telephone poles were knocked down or damaged. The driver then stole several hundred meters of phone cable.

The inner cabinet met yesterday to discuss the implementation of the Gaza/Jericho turnover. The cabinet said the PLO is now facing three main challenges: managing civil affairs, preventing terror attacks, and maintaining law and order among the Palestinians.

## Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis receives rites for dying

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was given Catholic rites for the dying at her home yesterday after doctors said they could do no more to help the 64-year-old former first lady fight lymphatic cancer.

"She is very comfortable. She has her children around her and

that's the way it should be," a spokeswoman said, adding that "How long it will go on, we don't know."

The sacrament was formerly known as last rites but is now given to any seriously ill member of the Roman Catholic church.

(Earlier story, Page 8)

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مکان من اذلال







# Rabbinical courts to refrain from ruling on immigrants' Jewishness

THE rabbinical court system yesterday officially conceded that it has no say in whether immigrants are Jewish for purposes of registration in the population registry.

This was part of a statement submitted to the High Court of Justice by the State Attorney's Office in answer to a petition from the Reform Movement's Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC) objecting to the Interior Ministry's practice of referring olim, es-

HAIM SHAPIRO

pecially from the former Soviet Union, to the rabbinical courts to determine whether they should be listed as Jews in the population registry and on their identity cards.

The petition had been directed against the interior minister, the head of the population registry, the rabbinical courts, and the state attorney. In response, the state

attorney had submitted a statement saying it accepts that the rabbinical courts have no say in this matter.

The statement included a declaration from the head of the population registry saying that the registry had not and would not refer olim to the rabbinical courts to clarify if they are Jews. It also included a declaration from Rabbi

Elihu Ben-Dehan saying that the rabbinical courts had been instructed not to deal with this matter.

Rabbi Uri Regev, director of the IRAC, said the declaration was of particular importance in view of recurring reports that the rabbinical courts administration had asked that rabbis be seconded to embassies in the former Soviet Union to establish if applicants for immigrant visas are Jews.



Suzanna Bandysova (left), wife of the visiting Czech defense minister, Rita Gur, chairwoman of Na'amat's pre-school division and Hanna Ben-David, head of Na'amat's Tel Aviv council, distribute gifts from Czechoslovakia to toddlers at a Na'amat day-care center in Tel Aviv yesterday.

## 'National service still in religious hands'

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE Education Ministry yesterday denied that any of the groups now authorized to deal with national service for religious girls had been organized by secular officials.

The denial followed an accusation by the heads of 17 religious girls' schools, who said that they would advise their students not to participate in the voluntary programs. Education Ministry Director-General Shimshon Shoshani said that the ministry had held an open tender for groups to coordinate the volunteer program.

Shoshani added that the criticism had been politically motivated. In fact, he said, the tender had been published after the state comptroller last year sharply criticized the group which had hitherto organized the lion's share of the volunteer programs.

The ministry, he said, had used objective criteria established by former director-general Zevulun Oriev and accepted four different groups to run programs. The groups accepted were the two groups which had previously organized the program, Emunah Women, and a coalition of religious Zionist organizations.

Shoshani stressed that the ministry itself had not set up any body and had not interfered in any of the groups which were chosen.

## Lecturers threaten to renew strike

HAIM SHAPIRO

REPRESENTATIVES of the country's university lecturers said last night that if they did not have a labor agreement signed by Saturday night they would again embark on a series of strikes and work stoppages.

Prof. Amos Komornik, head of the professors' coordinating committee, said the lecturers had still been unable to get the Finance Ministry to sign a contract finalizing the agreement which ended the protracted faculty strike in March. Moreover, he said, the universities were not paying the lecturers for increases that had been agreed upon.

Shalom Granit, the Treasury wage director, said if the faculty members were unhappy with the agreement, they should go to labor court to press their demands. He said the faculty was apparently trying to improve upon the tentative agreement.

Komornik in turn described the suggestion to go to labor court a fictitious gesture. He said the faculty had no desire to be tied up in litigation for years until the agreement was honored.

## Strikes by social workers and pharmacists placing double burden on country's hospitals

JUDY SIEGEL

THE simultaneous strikes by social workers and public-sector pharmacists are a double burden on the country's hospitals.

Abortions for psycho-social reasons, which require approval from social workers, are not being performed. Sick, elderly people who need to be transferred from general hospitals cannot be referred to geriatric facilities without a social worker's intervention; as a result, the hospital departments are becoming crowded with such patients at inordinate expense.

Dr. Nahum Egoz, director-general of Haifa's Bnai Zion Hospital, said yesterday that if the two strikes continue for much longer,

hospitals will have to seek labor court restraining orders or government back-to-work orders. So far, a labor court has refused to issue restraining orders against the 1,200-hospital and community clinic pharmacists, who began their strike 12 days ago.

Egoz said the supply of many drugs, such as pain relievers, antibiotics and heart medications, is running low. He said the shortage was "making things very difficult for the patients and staff. Drugs used in life-and-death situations are being supplied by the hospital pharmacists, but not these. We

could not afford to purchase drugs individually in private pharmacies, and even then, our pharmacists would have to be the ones to order them," he said.

Dr. Zvi Stern, director-general of Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, said that when an abortion is required because the fetus endangers the mother, three doctors may meet to approve it. However, when the abortion is requested for other reasons, it cannot be discussed without a social worker. The absence of social workers, Stern added, prevents assistance to battered wives and abused children who reach the hospital.

## Court: Rabbis must be given chance to prove adherence to property ruling in divorce cases

EVELYN GORDON

THE rabbinical courts have already agreed to obey a High Court of Justice ruling which requires them to use civil law to divide property in divorce cases, and therefore a petition to force the rabbinical courts to obey this ruling is unnecessary, the High Court said yesterday.

The petition was filed by Tel Aviv lawyers Amnon Ben-Dror and Liron Friedlander and the Association for Freedom from Religious Coercion. It was based on a newspaper report which said that Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau and Elihu Bakshi-Doron had ordered the rabbinical courts to ignore the High Court's ruling.

The February ruling said that rabbinical courts must divide property in divorce cases according to civil law, which splits the property equally.

In its response to the court, the state presented an affidavit from Rabbi Raphael Frank, the head of Lau's office, in which Frank denied that the chief rabbis had given any such order. The only decision made at the meeting referred to in the article, Frank said, was to set up a committee which would study ways to reconcile the ruling with halacha.

The petitioners disputed Frank's claim, noting that the first paragraph of the summary notice put out after the meeting stated: "The rabbinical courts judge according to halacha, and will not rule according to any instructions which contradict halacha."

But the court noted that, according to Frank, the Chief Rabbi had not yet concluded that the High Court ruling is irreconcilable with halacha.

"The respondents say they are following the ruling," Barak said. "That's enough for me. We'll wait and see what kind of rulings [the rabbinical courts] make."

## 'Satmar influencing Yemenites to return to Yemen'

BAT SHEVA TSUR

DESPITE the civil war, six Yemenite Jews who had immigrated to Israel have decided to return to Yemen, members of the Yemenite community in New York said yesterday.

The sources said that the six had decided to return to Sa'dah because of the influence of followers of the non-Zionist Satmar rebbe.

"There is a very real danger that some 100-200 people will go back," one activist said last night. "It is heartbreaking to see years of education going down the drain because these naive people have been swayed by the financial offers of the Satmar group."

The names of those who [have left Israel and] are waiting in New York to fly back to Yemen were given as Saleh Zared, his wife and son; Yehye Zared and his wife — all of whom left in the past few days — and Masoud Haviv who went back to Yemen a month ago.

"The Satmar followers have financial backing. They make more money out of showing their supporters pictures of the newcomers, telling them that they are exposed to terrible conditions and lack of morals," one activist said.

"In fact," he charged, "the Satmar rebbe is holding more than 50 Yemenite boys hostage in New York. He will not let them return to their parents unless they bring another boy instead of the one who leaves."

The activist also alleged that there had been complaints of sexual harassment of the Yemenite boys by Satmar hassidim.

"We strongly condemn the repeated efforts of the Satmar followers to undermine the absorption of the Yemenite immigrants," Jewish Agency Aliya Department head Uri Gordon said. "It is a great shame that some of the immigrants were taken in by the Satmar offers and agreed to leave. But there is nothing we can do. They are adults and this is a free country. It is their personal decision."

Another aliya official pointed out that there are always small numbers of people who are disaffected with aliya conditions. But, he said, despite the real financial incentives being offered by Satmar, it is unlikely that any sizeable group will leave.

Satmar sources were unavailable for comment last night.

## Man asks court to let him view juvenile crime files

THE High Court of Justice is expected to rule shortly on a petition filed by a former juvenile delinquent who has asked to examine evaluations made of him 20 years ago.

The Beersheba man, now 36, asked the Youth Probation Service for permission to examine the evaluations, but the service refused, without giving any reason. The Beersheba Juvenile Court then rejected a petition by the man to view his personal file.

The man, who has not been involved in crime since 1978, wants to include the information in a book he is now writing about his life.

Amir Rozenblit

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Rare blood type cracks murder case

The rare blood type of Yisrael Tanenbaum, 73, a night watchman found murdered in a Netanya hotel last June, led to the conviction of Salah Mujedat, 28, of Burka in the Gaza Strip, who was sentenced to life imprisonment by Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

Tanenbaum's blood was found on the iron bar used to kill him as he slept. The bar was discovered in Mujedat's possession.

The court discounted Mujedat's contention that he hadn't meant to kill, saying any reasonable person knows that hitting someone in the head with an iron bar can cause death. *lit*

### Two bodies found in Eilat

Two bodies were discovered in unrelated incidents in Eilat yesterday.

The first body, that of a 64-year-old man who had been stabbed several times, was found in the street at about 2 a.m. Several suspects were arrested.

The second body, of a man about 40, was found on the Neviot beach in the afternoon. It was taken to Josephthal Hospital so the cause of death could be determined. *lit*

### Meshakem ordered to update salaries

The Tel Aviv District Labor Court yesterday ordered the Meshakem corporation to pay a 16 percent advance to its disabled employees for failing to update their salaries from February.

The Histadrut, which filed the petition on behalf of the workers, claimed that under a collective agreement the workers were to receive a 2.3% increase from February and another 9.6% raise in April. The court ordered the payment as a temporary measure until a final agreement can be reached. *lit*

### Ministry aids Jericho's battle against litter

The first battle being fought in the newly-autonomous Jericho is apparently against litter. An item in yesterday's *Al-Kuds* said the Jericho Municipality and Palestinian Police are holding a clean-up campaign in honor of the 1d al-Adha festival.

When he heard about the campaign, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid ordered his staff to immediately forward 1,000 garbage bags to police chief Munsar Rashid. The bags, made from recycled plastic, were distributed by the afternoon.

### Ex-bodyguard sues for lost sight

Avishai Tzur, a bodyguard who lost the sight in his left eye while checking a weapon during a training course, yesterday sued his employer in Tel Aviv District Court for NIS 8.1 million.

According to the suit, Tzur's employer, Tandul Technology and Security Systems, had pressured him to serve as an instructor in a course for personal bodyguards given in September 1992 in Spain. At one point during the course, he was examining a machine gun when suddenly it exploded, flinging shrapnel into his eye. He lost his sight, and claimed he can no longer work as a bodyguard or security instructor. *lit*

### Palestinian Police arrest suspected car thieves

The Palestinian Police yesterday arrested two men on suspicion of stealing a car in the settlement of Eilat Sinai the previous day.

When the car was originally discovered in Gaza City, two Palestinian policemen were in it, and they were at first thought to be the thieves. But police accepted their contention they were trying to return the car to its owner. *lit*

### Haredim continue to protest Modi'in excavations

Dozens of haredim rioted at the archeological site at Modi'in yesterday, to protest what they said were plans by the Antiquities Authority to disturb burial sites.

The authority asked police to disperse the haredim, who have held three similar protests. Authority officials said if the protests continue they would not be able to finish their work and give their go-ahead for the construction of housing units. *lit*

## Maccabi, Meuhedet ask court to end benefits to Clalit

EVELYN GORDON

THE Maccabi and Meuhedet health funds yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice against the benefits granted Kupat Holim Clalit in its recovery agreement with the Treasury, as well as against the Treasury's recent NIS 180 million loan to Kupat Holim.

The petitioners demanded either that these benefits be ceased, or that they be allowed to receive them as well.

The two health funds' main grievance revolves around the decision to allow Kupat Holim to defer payments to government hospitals. The recovery plan permits the health fund to defer up to 4 percent of its total payments

to the hospitals. In addition, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat recently agreed to let it defer another NIS 30 million a month for each of the first six months of the year.

Maccabi and Meuhedet claim that both of these moves unfairly discriminate against them.

Furthermore, they argued, they will ultimately have to pick up the tab for the credit the government hospitals are giving Kupat Holim, because this will create a cash shortfall for the hospitals. Since the hospitals operate as a "closed economy," they will be obligated to make up this shortfall — probably by raising rates for all the health funds.

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on the conferment of the Honorary Doctorate degree  
on our dear Stanley,  
and on the unveiling of a  
memorial plaque in memory of  
Helena's parents, Jacob and Maria Mandelbaum.  
Our best wishes and gratitude  
Your loving family:  
The Zviellis, Millers, Arads, Saghers and Chapmans

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## Rationalized violations

PREDICTABLY, the flap over Yasser Arafat's call for jihad has been smoothed over. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's unequivocal threat to "place the whole agreement in question" has been forgotten. So has Arafat's puzzling claim that he agreed to sign the Cairo agreement only after receiving a secret letter signed by Rabin, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev pledging negotiations of the Jerusalem issue.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who vowed to "react accordingly" if Arafat had actually uttered the "unthinkable," went through the appropriate motions. He failed to show up for a lunch with Arafat, then expressed satisfaction with the PLO chief's Orwellian explanation that holy war means peace. Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, who could not understand what the fuss was about, said that not every word Arafat utters is important.

The time to worry about violation of the agreement, he added, is when Arafat is caught personally giving an order to resume terrorism. Perhaps the most upsetting aspect of the collapse of the government's resolve is that it surprised no one.

Like government officials, editorial writers and other commentators almost unanimously agreed that Arafat's speech was a violation of both the letter and spirit of the agreement, and most opposed returning to "business as usual." Some astute observers understood that Arafat's call was much more than mere incitement to violence. It was an attempt to broaden the Arab-Israeli conflict, which the PLO and the Israeli left have tried to portray as an Israeli-Palestinian struggle, into an Islamic-Jewish Armageddon.

But the government let none of this affect its conduct. It has obviously decided to put the incident behind it and devote its energies to damage control.

Indeed, there is little else it can do. It cannot take the opposition's demands for the

suspension of the talks seriously. Such demands can only come from opponents of the agreement. There is no way back for its proponents. Their political, diplomatic, and psychological investment in the agreement is so all-consuming, and the momentum of the process is so sweeping, that they cannot take a even a short pause, let alone stop.

That is why government assurance that the Declaration of Principles and the various Cairo agreements are a reversible experiment is misleading. True, for the foreseeable future the Israeli army can restore the status quo ante with little effort. But only a catastrophe can force the government to admit error and forfeit its investment.

This, despite frequent assurances that there are "red lines" the government will not allow to be crossed. One such red line was enunciated by MK Efraim Sneh (Labor), representing the government position in a Washington symposium this week. He said the continuation of terrorism, even in areas outside the Palestinian entity, would cause the agreement's cancellation.

But it was not long ago that government spokesmen said that Arafat's failure to change the PLO covenant would annul the agreement. Rabin himself has sworn that if the PLO makes a deal with Hamas, or if the PLO used Orient House in Jerusalem as its "foreign ministry," or declare that the Gaza/Jericho entity is a state, the deal would be off. But there is no doubt in anyone's mind that all these threats — some of which have already proved empty — are utterly meaningless.

Only all-out war, perhaps something patterned after the "low intensity" warfare waged by Hizbullah and other terrorist organizations from Lebanon, will persuade the government to consider a course reversal. Anything short of that will — like Arafat's lies, his call for jihad and the murder of motorists on the country's highways — be explained, excused, rationalized, and forgotten.

## Orders or inanity?

ON Tuesday morning an Israeli car was fired on by terrorists not far from Hebron. All three motorists were hit. Margalit Shohat died instantly. Rafael Yairi died of his wounds at the scene. Yael Shohat, gravely wounded in her head, was taken to Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem.

In Israel such reports have become routine. Most of the time help arrives quickly and the wounded are taken to hospital. But this time there was something different. Soldiers, summoned by a passing settler, quickly arrived at the scene. But they did not try to help the wounded passengers. The reason, they said, was that the commander of the unit feared the

car might have been booby trapped.

This is unprecedented behavior. The chances that a car could be booby trapped so soon after the shooting are nil. Nor has it been the modus operandi of ambushes on highways. Indeed, as soon as another army unit arrived, after precious time had been lost, the car's doors were opened without hesitation.

MK Shaul Yahalom (NRP) has demanded that the commander of the first unit be investigated immediately. Yahalom says he wants to know whether this officer acted irresponsibly because he did not know better, or because he was bound by inane, dangerous, new orders. All Israelis must know the answer, too.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ABANDONING FRIENDS

Sir, — Jews and Israelis are proud of the fact that they are faithful to friends and act accordingly to a higher morality than others. These standards, however, do not correspond to reality when it comes to their Palestinian Arab friends and Arab Christian and Muslim friends in Southern Lebanon's security zone.

The first group, the Palestinian Arab friends, have been enormously helpful and have saved many Israeli lives since 1967. They are generally labeled by the Israeli press and public as "Arab collaborators" — with all the disdain associated with the term collaborator. Their fate in the "autonomy" is obvious.

The second group, Israeli's Christian and Muslim friends in the security zone, have been shown that their blood is cheaper than that of Israelis. The informal, unsigned agreement that Secretary of State Christopher sealed after the mini-war in Southern Lebanon last year "guaranteed" no Katyushas and terrorist attacks on Israel proper, but accepted the southern Lebanon security zone as an open-fire zone; Katyushas, car bombs, mines, all became internationally recognized legitimate activities of the Syrian-backed Hizbullah terrorists. Thus, the Jews of Israel put their friends — men, women and children — in addition to the Southern Lebanese Army (which has been fighting for them for

years) and the unfortunate Israeli soldiers stationed in the area, in mortal danger.

Most Jews in and outside of Israel are aware of this double standard, but are silent. This immoral Machiavellian behavior of the Jews — a people that has plenty of experience of being abandoned by the nation — is a stain on a people aspiring to be "a light unto the nations." Shame on Israel. Shame on the silent Jews.

PROF. GERALD S. FERMAN  
President, Lippin Center for Public Affairs  
Jerusalem.

### ORDAINED BY GOD

Sir, — Enough is enough. Is the rabbinic the only Jewish body within Israel that reads or owns a Tanach? Doesn't anyone out there even read the Torah anymore? Secular Judaism is a contradiction in terms. There is little difference between a secular Jew and an atheist.

What exactly do you think that we are doing back in the land? Do you honestly think that, by our own strength, we simply walked in and took it? Does God no longer play a role in Israel? Does God no longer deliver the victory to us if only we will stand on His Word?

God has told us over and over again in the Torah that He will deliver the victory to us, if only we

will trust Him and believe in Him. Didn't He tell us that once we were back in the land that we would never be uprooted again from it? So why are we shaking in our boots like a bunch of cowards? Doesn't anyone still remember that we are only tenants in the land and that God owns it? How then can we give it away?

If our place in the land — Israel — is not ordained by God and governed by Torah, then we might as well just pack up and move back to Germany, even we in the Diaspora.

M.L. GRODNO  
Escondido, California.

### EMBASSY REACTION

Sir, — In reference to Steve Rodan's article, "At any price," (*Jerusalem Post Magazine*, May 13), I would like to emphasize on the record that the American Embassy takes very seriously allegations of fraud and malfeasance in any of its operations. This is especially true of allegations concerning fraud in the issuance of American visas. Both internal controls and

Washington oversight provide methods to deal effectively with such instances when they are proven to occur. Any allegations contained in Mr. Rodan's article that the embassy does otherwise are simply not true.

DAVID P. GOOD  
Counselor for Public Affairs  
Tel Aviv US Embassy

### GUSH KATIF SETTLEMENTS

Sir, — I read your shocking article of May 6 about Jewish Agency plans to resettle the over 5,000 Jews of Gush Katif in the Negev. How far will this Bolshevik government go in lying to the people and denying any civil rights to Jews? Where do we live? Does Israel still pretend to call itself "democratic" when bureaucrats can decide to uproot families, communities and households as though they were toys or puppets? And to think that they still want the right to tell these dedicated farmers where they should resettle?

It's time the rest of you speak out and join us at the 100 junctions throughout this country and bring down this government before our homes and communities are the next dominoes to fall — pushed over by the present minority government.

I hope that the article has no truth to it and that no one would dare make such plans. We have enough anti-Zionist enemies from inside. We don't need more from outside.

Meitar. LEAH S. WOLF



## About keeping within red lines

CHAIM HERZOG

ISRAEL'S first and most crucial task is guaranteeing that the agreement with the Palestinians becomes a constructive reality. It won't be easy.

We are facing a very difficult period, one in which the newborn Palestinian entity's teething troubles will be compounded by its urge to increase its authority in other areas of Judea and Samaria as rapidly as possible.

Terror will be directed against Israel and the settlements. There will be flashpoints between Jews and Arabs in the territories, with extreme elements on both sides opposed to the peace process.

In light of these problems comes the inevitable question: Is it right to open up a "second front" with Syria?

It is generally accepted that Syria is central to the entire peace process. But any move we make should be careful and gradual. We should opt for a process stretching over very many years, one with checkpoints prepared well in advance.

What is important is that Hafez Assad and the Syrian people understand that peace between two nations isn't merely a political agreement between governments. They must understand everything peace implies.

Furthermore, there is not enough public support for a rapid divestment of our 1967 assets. For this reason, a national referendum on the issue, as promised by the government, is crucial.

The impression seems to be that the proposals, statements and concessions have all come from our side. Apparently, all Assad has to do is sit, wait, smile, keep his mouth shut and receive proposals from Israel, including concessions.

One thing is quite clear: Assad doesn't understand how democracy works in a country like Israel. If he did, he would take advantage of it. He would turn to our public over the heads of its leadership, as Anwar Sadat did with consummate skill.

Assad proved his ignorance of

democracy by the boycott he imposed on the Israeli journalists who went to Geneva earlier this year. One can assume that ordinary Syrians share their leader's ignorance about our society.

It's time we set up a television relay station on Mt. Hermon, so that Syrian citizens can get to know Israeli democracy in action.

assumed.

The story of the displaced persons is an example.

It was two days after the liberation of Jerusalem in the Six Day War, on a Friday afternoon, Anwar el-Khatib, governor of the Jerusalem district, who reported directly to Amman (as did all five districts in the West Bank), called

### Israel must know where it stands, and then stand firm

like the Jordanians, who have been greatly influenced by this kind of exposure.

Many of the problems we face today arise from the fact that the Camp David agreement was accepted as a precedent for future agreements. Therein lies, as it were, "the original sin."

I present when Menachem Begin presented his autonomy plan for the first time to president Jimmy Carter in the White House. The questions asked after his presentation by the national security adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and then secretary of state Cyrus Vance revealed that they saw the plan as a corridor leading to more than autonomy.

"Who will have the authority in respect of migration policy into the autonomous area?" Vance asked. As I recall, he didn't receive a clear answer.

This is typical of a number of issues the Palestinians raised and in which we acquiesced. Then, suddenly, we realized that our acquiescence was much more embracing than we had originally

on me as military governor of the West Bank.

He asked that I alleviate the problem of the wives of Jordanian officers and the families of Arab consuls whose husbands had fled to Jordan and left their families behind without any means of support. He requested that I authorize the transfer of these families to Jordan.

I agreed on the spot, adding that, as from the Sunday after our meeting, a regular bus service would operate from Damascus Gate in Jerusalem. Anybody wishing to cross the Jordan River in the area of Allenby Bridge to Jordan was free to do so, on condition he or she signed a declaration stating they were leaving of their own free will.

Tens of thousands of people who sought to be reunited with their families in Jordan took advantage of this authorization. During the actual fighting, approximately 100,000 Palestinians fled across the river, particularly from the refugee camps around Jericho. Permission to leave added approximately another 100,000 — in all, a total of some 200,000 persons.

A month later, the government of Israel announced that the displaced persons could return to the West Bank. The authorization

was made public two or three times more. Several tens of thousands took advantage of the government's offer and returned. The story is faithfully recorded in Shlomo Gazi's book, *The carrot and the stick*.

My understanding at the time was that the subject was closed. It was a mistake, in my view, to raise the issue again more than 25 years later.

An additional mistake was adopting the period of autonomy laid down at Camp David. Instead of five years, a period of 15 to 20 years would have been much more logical. Very many Arab leaders share my view.

In the current situation, decisions cannot be postponed. We have to take a final stand on many issues — such as Jerusalem, borders, immigration, economic relations, to name but a few — which would be reflected in the policy and in developments in the territories. Perhaps we should endeavor to come as close as possible to the Allon Plan.

In any case, the border between Israel and the autonomous region must be determined, today, in accordance with our security requirements. This also goes for our policy on other matters — above all, on Jerusalem. It should be made clear to our interlocutors that the government will be committed to red lines.

Since there are bound to be international pressures, as well as problems concerning security, economic, agriculture and police matters, it is imperative that a much closer and clearer dialogue be created between the government and the public, including the settlers.

Our principal mission is to assume a clear-cut position in advance on vital issues, and to be determined and ready to support that stand. Failing this, reality will impose its will, with much less favorable results than if the initiative had been ours.

The writer was Israel's sixth president.

## Yasser Arafat's jihad: wholly war

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

WHILE in South Africa last week, Yasser Arafat called for "a jihad to liberate Jerusalem." Since Arafat had pledged himself to peace, not war, at the great White House handshake last September, this sent American and Israeli officials into a tizzy.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres called it "shocking and unacceptable." Secretary of State Warren Christopher asked for "an immediate clarification." Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin complained that this was a "serious violation" of the letter Arafat had sent him pledging an end to violence.

Rabin's trust in the written word is touching and no doubt sincere. But his faith in Arafat's word is comically misplaced. End violence? Last month Arafat refused even to condemn the terror bombing of a civilian bus in Afula that killed eight and wounded 44.

As Arab leaders from Beirut to Amman to Cairo can testify, Arafat's actions bear no relation to his commitments. He has violated so many agreements with Jordan's King Hussein, for example, that Hussein barely bothers talking to him any more. What did Rabin and Peres and Christopher expect?

Rabin warned that if the tape of Arafat's South Africa speech was authentic (Arafat later admitted it was), it would "place in question" the peace process. But what is happening in the territories now is not a peace process. It is a retreat. The letters and documents, the signings and ceremonies, the handshakes and bene-

dictions are there mainly to give retreat the appearance of orderliness and mutuality.

But in reality it is a one-way street. What has Israel gotten in return for granting the Palestinians self-government for the first

time in their history — something the Jordanians, Egyptians and Turks, all fellow Muslims, never granted?

They were supposed to get an end to terrorism — the letter, remember, that Arafat sent to Rabin last September. But when the terrorism continues and Arafat is silent, Israel issues a few feeble protests, then moves on lest the "peace process" be disrupted by its violations by Arafat.

TAKE THAT call for jihad. Arafat has now "clarified" it by saying that by holy war he meant a peaceful crusade. He added: "I will continue my jihad for peace," a smarmy oxymoron that Shimon Peres — the human punching bag, the planet's most easily mollified negotiator — meekly bought. He expressed happiness that Arafat had reaffirmed his commitment to peaceful means.

Israel has come to accept that the terror will continue and that Arafat will do nothing about it. And why should he? Terrorism serves his purposes. The more terrorism, the more pressure on the Israelis to hasten their retreat from the rest of the West Bank.

from Jerusalem, and who knows from where else after that.

The other thing Israel was supposed to get from the PLO in return for Gaza, Jericho, recognition and self-government was recognition of Israel's legitimacy. The theory was that if the Palestinians, the aggrieved Arab party in the Arab-Israeli dispute, finally recognized Israel, the rest of the Arab and Moslem world would have no excuse not to follow suit.

But PLO recognition has been so halfhearted, so disingenuous, so obviously expedient and calculated, that not a single Arab or Moslem state has followed suit. The Arabs have not even deigned to lift their economic boycott of Israel.

Israel's pariah status remains such that Miss Lebanon is hauled in for questioning on charges of treason for posing at a beauty pageant with Miss Israel, and

Malaysia banned *Schindler's List*, for being too sympathetic to Jews (and too hard on the Nazis).

While Rabin and Peres have not count a prime-ministerial visit to Morocco among their major post-September triumphs, Arafat has pocketed tangible gains of immense significance. This week, Gaza and Jericho. Next, the Palestinians will extend their control to all but a small fraction of the West Bank. Then on to Jerusalem.

Moreover, a Palestinian state, Arafat's ultimate goal, is now inevitable: the flag, the stamps, the passports, the border controls, the paramilitary force are in place. There is no turning back. Arafat's speech in South Africa simply made plain what any sentient observer has known since September 13. The battle for Palestine is over. The battle for Jerusalem — and then Israel itself — has begun.

Some will object that I am viewing this all as a zero-sum game. Was not the spirit, the point of the September handshake that henceforth Israel and the Palestinians would mutually benefit by building a secure future based on accommodation and mutual respect?

Of course. And Israel signed precisely because it bought into that vision. Arafat buys in when Western cameras are rolling. Among Moslems, safely (he thought) out of earshot of Israelis and Americans, he calls for holy war. Nothing is more zero-sum than holy war.

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# Better, saner politics

THE recent Histadrut elections make a convincing case for the adoption of the open primary in Israel.

In the closed primary, only party members are eligible to vote in choosing the party's candidates for office. This is the system that has been adopted by the country's two major political parties. In the open primary, on the other hand, people who are eligible to vote in the general elections can vote in the primary of their choice.

A major distinction in the consequences of the two systems is their effect on the power of a political machine. In the case of the Histadrut, this means the party activists whose economic base is Histadrut employment and the non-party committees of the strong trade unions, whose primary concerns are the basic bread-and-butter issues of wages and terms of employment.

These are the basic elements in what is generally referred to as the Histadrut political machine. Before last week's elections, conventional wisdom had it that Ramon's chances depended on an exceptionally heavy vote. If the voting were light, pundits proclaimed, then the power of the Histadrut machine would determine the outcome. The machine, needless to say, was mobilized on the side of Haim Haberfeld and the Histadrut establishment.

When the votes were counted, however, the impossible had happened. Voting was light — 55 percent of eligible voters — and Ramon registered a stunning victory. What happened? Even in light of the general election, the number of voters involved is of an order of magnitude that neutralizes the influence of a political machine.

The increasingly personal character of voting preferences is, perhaps, a contributing factor. However, Haberfeld had won handily in the Labor Party closed primary. The explanation cannot lie in the greater personal magnetism of Haim Ramon as contrasted with that of Amir Peretz, Haberfeld's opponent in the primary.

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

Moreover, Ramon's personal appeal cannot explain the stunning success of his list in the elections for the labor councils in the major cities. This is the machine's own home turf. Defeat in the local labor councils hit them where they live. Even if the local party activists were not highly motivated to support the incumbent secretary-

## A strong case can be made for open primaries in choosing party candidates

general — which may have been the case in some instances — this certainly was not the case with regard to contests involving their own political base.

A STRONG, appealing candidate, with a strong, appealing case is, of course, an effective antidote to any political machine — at least, as long as the mass of the voting public has the freedom to choose.

Ramon placed a concrete program before the voters — the undiluted national health bill, as originally approved by the Rabin cabinet, a national pension law, supervision by the state comptroller. But in the Labor Party's closed primary that preceded the general election, virtually the same program did not do the trick for Amir Peretz.

Also inadequate is the explanation that the Histadrut machine is simply falling apart, like that of the communist party in the Soviet Union on the eve of its demise. This argument is based on the evidence of what has been going on since the election, with all the various disparate elements of which the party's Histadrut organization

is composed scrambling for cover to save their own particularistic interests.

However, the argument of organizational degeneration, as it were, does not explain the remarkable job the machine did for Yisrael Kessar in the primaries to choose the party's candidate for prime minister only a few years ago and the equally impressive recent victory of Haim Haberfeld in the primary elections for the post of Histadrut secretary-general.

The only satisfactory explanation is that the Histadrut general elections were the functional equivalent of an open primary. This analysis is strengthened by the striking decline in the votes cast for the Likud. Sensing the open primary character of the balloting, many Likud voters apparently crossed party lines to cast their ballots where, in their view, they would be most effective.

This is one of the drawbacks of an open primary. Voters, political scientists have pointed out, would be drawn to the primary of the dominant party, as it would afford them their only real opportunity to participate in the election process. The minority party would be threatened with atrophy.

The aftermath of the Histadrut elections illustrates another drawback: assuming more than one strong candidate, the task of coalition-building would be unavoidable. As in our present Knesset elections, it would take place after the elections.

The recent Histadrut general elections effectively neutralized the Histadrut organizational apparatus on the election outcome. However, they left the job of the effective organization of political control of the Histadrut without an institutionalized solution.

Felix Frankfurter once described a political party as an "organized appetite." In the aftermath of the Histadrut elections, the organization has taken a licking, but the appetite is alive and well.

The writer is a legal and political commentator.



# Aliya — what's that word again?

HERMAN BRANOVER

THE symptoms suggest quite clearly that Zionism is critically sick. Maybe it's already dead. The most obvious signs relate to the sad fate of aliya from the CIS.

To many of us, the huge and noisy rallies, world conferences, PR efforts — all the hard work and emotion invested in the "Let my people go!" campaign are still a vivid memory.

Thousands of Israelis and Diaspora Jews sincerely believed that if only the Soviet leaders opened the gates of the Soviet Union just a little, it would be the happiest day of their lives, the fulfillment of the Zionist dream.

The struggle lasted some three decades. A whole generation of Jews grew up and was educated on these ideas.

In 1989, the great miracle began. And it wasn't just a small opening. Those gates were suddenly thrown wide open, with no restrictions whatsoever on Jews willing to leave.

It seemed that the greatest and most positive thing in the history of the State of Israel was about to happen. But the gigantic aliya outburst which ensued lasted hardly two years. Then the deterioration began.

Two million people or more might have come. But they didn't. Not even a million came.

The total number of immigrants is just approaching half a million now. Nobody talks about aliya, nobody cares. This lack of interest has become even more pronounced over the last few months. Aliya from the CIS is just another "victim of the peace process."

The present thin stream of immigrants is bringing around 60,000 people into the country each year.

Not only is that number many times lower than it might be, the breakdown of immigrants by age and profession has also changed dramatically.

The percentage of engineers and physicians has dropped, while the proportion of pensioners is steadily climbing.

The reason is no secret: Israel's

Israeli economy, notably its high-tech export sector.

WHY, THEN, is nothing happening? Why is the average Israeli utterly indifferent to the collapse not only of the Zionist dream, but also to this once-in-history chance to develop Israel into a technological superpower?

## A sick and selfish society cannot even identify its own best interests

inability to offer immigrants jobs in their professions.

For the first time in the history of Zionism and the State of Israel, aliya — the state's chief proclaimed goal — has been stopped not because other countries interfered (the British didn't let Jews into Israel; the Communists didn't let them out of the Soviet Union) but because Israel simply failed to absorb the newcomers.

To be fair, getting 55,000 engineers, 10,000 scientists, 12,000 physicians and 23,000 teachers work in their professions is no mean feat. But there are practical and economic ways to do it.

I have written a great deal about the "Master Plan for Employing Immigrants and Economic Advancement of the State," developed at the government's request. This is a comprehensive and realistic plan, clearly demonstrating that immigrants can be professionally placed. Implementation of the plan, moreover, will bring about an unprecedented flourishing of

Why are the media keeping so quiet? How come the issue of drop-outs, which whipped up a storm in the Jewish world just a few years ago, now never rates a mention?

The sad irony is that the present rate of drop-outs by far exceeds the aliya rate from the CIS. The number of new immigrants who subsequently leave Israel is also on the rise. Where are all the angry guardians of Israeli patriotism?

I see only one explanation. A national effort was necessary to sustain this unprecedented aliya. The whole of society needed to participate.

But this society is sick. Among its many diseases is one very fundamental ailment: the collapse of Zionism as an ideology and a way of life.

Many Israelis are devoid of idealism, of concern for their fellow Jews. They live for instant self-gratification, so much so that they have lost the imagination and ability to discern what is in their own interests. They simply don't realize the benefits aliya could bring within just a few years.

Living in Israel means carrying unique burdens and hardships. But in the past, Jews knew their mission. They knew what they were living for. They knew on whom they could rely. So they outlived the Romans, the Inquisition, Bogdan Chmelnytsky, Hitler and Stalin.

But the moment a society decided it wants to be "like any other," it becomes selfish and consumer-oriented, unable to bear any burden, even the relatively light one of aliya.

In such a society, who cares about future national prosperity or the necessity of increasing the Jewish population?

One observation is in order. What I have described is a trend — the general, not the particular. Israel is fortunate in still having thousands upon thousands of motivated and caring Jews. It has numerous heroes, plus many simple, modest and unselfish people. Perhaps they will prevail.

The writer is professor of magnetohydrodynamics at Ben-Gurion University and chairman of Shamir, the Israel Association of Professionals from the CIS.

# Saddam and the smokers

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein at a recent press conference:

"I reject any criticism of my use of gas against civilian populations. No one has come to me and said they are personally bothered by these gases. Frankly, I'm sick of having these self-righteous anti-gas types infringe on my personal freedom."

SOUNDS pretty ridiculous, no? The idea that "personal freedom" gives a person the right to inflict damage and possibly death on others unless those others explicitly ask to be spared? Yet this is exactly what smokers demand. Worse, many smokers won't stop even if you do ask.

My wife was waiting at a train station in Boston when a woman, sitting directly under a sign threatening a fine and/or imprisonment for smoking, lit a cigarette. She asked the woman to please put it out.

The smoker glared and went on smoking. My wife said, "Please, I'm allergic to cigarette smoke." The woman glared again. After a minute, she asked, "Are you really allergic?" My wife nodded, and the woman put out her cigarette. "Sorry about that," she said. "But sometimes people just say they're allergic to make me stop smoking."

Have you met this woman? Or thousands of others just like her? (Incidentally, my wife isn't allergic to cigarette smoke, at least no more than anyone is allergic to any poison gas. The price for breathing tobacco-free air was telling a lie. And you thought that air was free?)

Walk into the Bank Leumi branch in Ma'aleh Adumim, and you'll see a gigantic poster announcing: "Smoking is forbidden!" You will also notice more nicotine in the air than oxygen. Why don't the bank employees do something about this? Who do you think's smoking...?

Lots of people have bad habits. I drink too much Coke and don't eat enough vegetables (at least, so I'm told). But my eating habits don't give the person next to me vitamin deficiencies, and my drinking habits don't make other people gain weight.

My objection to smoking isn't

BRAD AARONSON

that smokers are killing themselves. That's a terrible thing, but in the long run, it can only improve the breed. Darwin would understand. My objection is when they force their death wish on others.

'Mind if I puff some poison your way?'  
'No, please do'

HOW MANY times have you had someone ask you: "Do you mind if I smoke?" How did you feel? Certainly some people will say, "Yes, please don't."

But the polite response is to nod or wave your acquiescence, while the smoker begins his poison attack. Why should a nonsmoker be put on the spot, forced to be the offender simply in order to be spared the increased risk of a horrible death from lung cancer?

Yet whenever I've suggested to friends that cigarettes should be banned entirely, they always manage to bring up Prohibition.

Now let's think about this. Prohibition in the US failed miserably because any commodity made illegal will develop a black market. People didn't stop drinking; they just stopped drinking in public.

So suppose cigarettes were banned. People would stop smoking in public. This is bad? And if cigarettes weren't manufactured here and could only be smuggled in, with the smugglers risking the same punishments as smugglers of other dangerous drugs, prices would rocket. Certainly the number of new smokers would plummet.

"But what about the people who work in the tobacco industry?" I've heard it asked. Interesting question. Last I checked, it was a bit easier to find a new job than to get over lung cancer, emphysema and heart disease.

In "Puff off," (May 11, The Je-

usalem Post) we were treated to an extended kvetch by Sydney Schanberg, bemoaning the fact that nonsmokers are "abandoning civility." He managed to stun readers (I hope) with the asinine comment: "Do I object to their cheap cocaine?"

Gee, why didn't I think of that? Imagine my insensitivity. With tens of thousands of people dying every year from cocaine-related diseases, what kind of a clod would go on ranting about something as harmless as smoking?

It's about time we recognized that "personal freedom" ends the moment it infringes on others. When your neighbor blasts his stereo into your apartment, your right to peace and quiet comes before his right to play loud music. But that, as Mr. Schanberg put it, can be handled with civility.

People rarely die from loud music. There is nothing civil about poisoning innocent bystanders.

Smokers are the moral equivalent of Saddam Hussein, and as such, have no right whining when their victims start standing up for their rights.

The writer is a Jerusalem-based economist.

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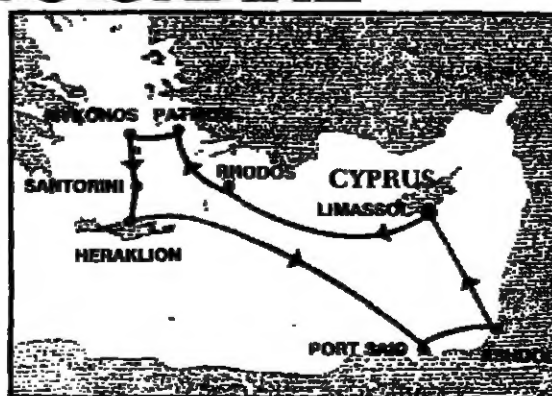
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FRIDAY, MAY 20, 1994

## Leumi tender going ahead as scheduled Safra Group remains as only contender

THE tender to gain controlling interest of Bank Leumi will continue as scheduled, even though a group headed by banker Edmond Safra is the only participant interested in taking part.

MI Holdings, the government-owned company managing the sale of the bank shares, is expected to enter negotiations with the Safra Group in the next few days.

The government is offering for sale a block of shares representing 20 percent to 40 percent of Leumi's voting rights and issued share capital.

Safra intends to gain control of the bank through Republic Bank of New York. At the start of the week, Safra, through Republic Bank of New York, deposited \$20

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

million with the accountant general to participate in the tender.

The Safra Group remained the only one interested in purchasing Leumi after a group set up by attorney David Rotlevi announced it does not plan to participate.

Gil Leidner, managing director of MI Holdings, said Bank Leumi will be sold according to a professional evaluation of its worth.

"I think we can decide on the bottom line in terms of price and other conditions below which the bank will not be sold," Leidner said. "It is obvious to all, including the potential buyer, that the bank will be sold only under certain conditions."

According to Leidner, the government will find alternative routes to sell Leumi's controlling interest if an agreement is not reached with the Safra Group.

"There are other alternatives in the world," he said. "There are countries which prevent the sale of controlling interest in a banking institution to one group and prefer ownership of a bank to be distributed over a number of shareholders. It is an alternative being considered, even though it is not the most preferred solution."

The tender was scheduled to close one month ago, but MI Holdings decided to postpone the deadline to encourage the participation of additional investors.

## Treasury in a bind on Leumi sale

COMMENT

NEIL COHEN

SURPRISE, surprise, the Treasury has gotten itself into another pickle. As I predicted in February, Edmond Safra is the sole bidder for Bank Leumi.

If the Treasury proceeds to negotiate with Safra, it will face two problems. First, he will be able to dictate the price and, believe you me, it will be a low one.

In addition, two and maybe even three of the country's biggest banks will wind up in the hands of the same family. (Edmond Safra will own Leumi; his brothers, who, incidentally, are his likely heirs, control First International Bank; and his nephew, Jack Nasser, who fronted for the First International purchase, is one of the bidders for United Mizrahi Bank).

Admirable as the Safra's philanthropy and business talent may be, the prospect of one family controlling three, or even two, major banks is quite unbecomable.

But at the same time, if the Treasury refuses to negotiate with Safra on the grounds that he is the only bidder and is thus in a powerful negotiating position, they will damage the credibility of future sales processes.

As Finance Minister Avraham Shohat encouraged Safra to bid, it would be awkward

for him to claim that Safra had suddenly become an unsuitable candidate, unless of course the Bank of Israel was to come to his rescue.

So, what to do? As MI Holdings, the Government Companies Authority and the Treasury as a whole seem to be completely out of their depth when it comes to privatizing anything much larger than a candy store, the time has come to hire a decent investment banker.

The stock market is unable or unwilling to absorb the quantity of stock involved in selling the big banks, and there appear to be no strategic investors waiting in the wings. So you need a Goldman Sachs or Lehman Brothers to advise on how a sale should be structured and to identify possible buyers and negotiate with them.

Could outsiders do things better? I think they could. I think they would advise breaking up the banks, as long, drawn-out legislation is supposed to do. Africa Israel and

Migdal would be easy. Bank Leumi's real estate and insurance subsidiaries are attractive properties and selling more of their shares on the TASE or selling stakes in them should not be too onerous a task.

A thus stiffer Leumi would be that much more digestible and hence easier to sell. The same principle would apply to Bank Hapoalim, with its various non-banking subsidiaries.

If the Treasury is prepared to be really bold, it would demerge the banks' fund management operations, which would enable them to own stakes in the banks without conflicts of interest.

For those who worry about the banks' stability and prospects shorn of their non-banking holdings, I would point to the Bank of Scotland, one of the UK's second-line retail banks.

Last week BOS turned in another set of sparkling profits, maintaining the consistent growth which has been the envy of the big UK high street banks. BOS has stuck to its knitting - traditional retail and corporate banking. The big banks have diversified into non-banking fields, and in many of these lost a ton of money.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ministry to discuss deals between fuel companies, gas stations: The Energy Ministry has decided to discuss again the legal proposal on supplying fuel to gas stations. Energy Minister Moshe Shohat said he will discuss reducing the length of contracts between fuel companies and gas stations.

'Arab media takes negative view on economic agreement': The Arab media has a very negative perception of the economic agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, according to Prof. Hisham Autarni, head of the Center for Palestine Research Studies and an economic adviser in the negotiations. Speaking at a Chambers of Commerce conference on the agreement, Autarni said the autonomy must achieve its goals.

Autarni presented Chambers of Commerce president Danny Gillerman with a booklet which included a survey concluding that the majority of Palestinians said they will refuse to enter business partnerships with Israel.

### WORLD BRIEFS

Record US exports shrinks trade deficit: Record US exports in March helped shrink the deficit on trade in goods and services by 18.5 percent to \$7.46 billion, the Commerce Department said yesterday. Exports increased 9.6% to \$58.33b, while imports were up 5.4% to a record \$65.79b. *Reuters*

Bank of France cuts interest rate again: The Bank of France made its fifth small cut in interest rates in a month yesterday in a move that economists said was in line with its policy of tracking monetary easing in Germany. The central bank cut its intervention rate, which sets the floor for the market, to 5.40 percent from 5.50%. It also cut its less watched ceiling rate to 6.40% from 6.75%. *Reuters*

BT underlying profits rise 2.8%: British Telecommunications Plc yesterday announced a 40 percent jump in unadjusted full year pre-tax profits. But without non-recurring costs incurred last year and this - mainly for a massive redundancy scheme - the underlying profits growth was only 2.8 percent. *Reuters*

Sony suffers plunge in profits: Hit by the high yen, sluggish demand for audio-visual products and the poor performance of its film business, Sony Corp saw its group earnings tumble 21.2 percent to 99.67 billion yen (\$967 million) during the year that ended on March 31.

Volkswagen slashes losses: Volkswagen AG, Europe's largest car maker, reported a 72 percent fall in its first-quarter deficit yesterday and said aggressive cost-cutting had put it on the road to recovery after record losses in 1993. Its first-quarter group net loss shrank to DM 342 million (\$205m.) from a DM 1.25 billion (\$750m.) shortfall a year earlier. *Reuters*

## Koor's net profit drops 16.3%

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

KOOR Industries reported a 16.3 percent drop in net earnings for the first quarter to NIS 170 million from NIS 202m. for the same period last year.

The company attributed the decline to lower earnings at Tadiran, a subsidiary which is majority owned by Koor.

Koor's share of Tadiran's drop in earnings was NIS 28.9m.

"While we expected first quarter net income to be affected by Tadiran's lower results, profitability elsewhere in our company showed greater than anticipated

strength to cushion the decline," Koor president and CEO Benjamin Gao said. "This overall trend is expected to continue as 1994 progresses and should enable Koor to post another solid performance for the full year."

Sales for the period rose 8% to NIS 2.19 billion from NIS 2.03b., as exports increased to \$249m. from \$231m.

In the reported period, operating profit fell to NIS 253m. from

NIS 304m. Financing expenses fell to NIS 20m. from NIS 23m.

Management emphasized that financing expenses include losses of NIS 13m. from the fall in the value of its tradeable securities on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange during the reported period.

Koor has submitted a draft prospectus to the authorities with the aim of raising \$100m. The company expects to receive the authorities' approval to publish the prospectus by the end of May. The proceeds of the issue will go toward new investments.

## Shohat: Hitting inflation goal will be difficult

JOSE ROSENFELD

REACHING the government's eight percent inflation goal will be difficult, although it is not yet a lost cause, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat told *The Jerusalem Post* in an exclusive interview. Shohat admitted that even if housing reforms are fully implemented, their impact on prices would be primarily long-term.

"There is a problem with the issue," Shohat said. "Nevertheless, I think we should stick to the goal, although I have no guarantee that we will reach it."

Shohat said inflation was more moderate so far this year than in the previous two years.

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel noted that housing was not the sole culprit for inflation, as demonstrated by the fact that out of the 2% price rise in April, only 0.5% was attributable to housing.

## Avner Insurance reports NIS 270 million net loss

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

AVNER Insurance, the government insurance body which pays claims to accident victims, yesterday reported a NIS 270 million net loss last year, compared with a NIS 387m. net loss in 1992.

The company's accumulated loss, after adding the deficit remaining from 1992, rose 9.8% to NIS 991 from NIS 902m.

Last year Avner continued to suffer from a growth in the number of new claims to 70,194 from 63,871. The number of pending claims increased 10.6% to 157,553.

Avner paid out some NIS 1.15 billion in claims last year.

Avner's total investments increased 16.4% to NIS 2.06b. The rise was attributed to the 13.5% increase in premiums being paid due to the increase in tariffs in September.

In the directors' report accompanying the financial statements, Avner chairman Haim Stessel said the amendments to narrow the interpretation of the Damages and Compensation Law, as recommended in the 1992 Berenson Report, have not yet been approved. Avner currently is suffering from an increase in claims due to the liberal interpretation of the Damages and Compensation Law.

## Shapira tells court he bought villa with his own money

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

FORMER Carmel Carpets owner Avraham Shapira told Tel Aviv District Court yesterday that he financed a Caesarea villa with his own money.

Shapira testified in reaction to the official receiver's request to declare that the villa is owned by Caesarea Glenoit, part of the Carmel Carpets conglomerate, which is in receivership.

"In the plot's purchase agreement I gave a personal check of 500,000 old shekels for the plot," Shapira testified. "I concluded a transaction and purchased a plot on which I constructed a villa for myself and not for the company. Officials forgot to register the plot under my name."

Shapira said construction costs were \$161,847 on April 1, 1984. In addition, Shapira said he invested \$58,623 in furniture.

## MKs consider stipend for public directors who attend board meetings

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset finance committee yesterday began discussing a proposal to pay public directors of government companies for attending

ing a certain number of board meetings a month, with several MKs objecting to the limitation on the number of meetings.

The Treasury's proposal would grant directors NIS 350-NIS 650 a meeting, for a maximum of one to six meetings a month, with the stipend and the maximum number of paid meetings determined by the company's size and importance.

For chairmen, the stipends would range from NIS 450-NIS 800 a month. Civil servants or employees of a publicly-funded body who serve as directors, however, would not be eligible.

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## Clal's earnings fall 12%

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

CLAL Insurance has announced a 12 percent decline in its first quarter net profits to NIS 8.1 million from NIS 9.3m. in the comparative period last year.

The decrease was attributed to lower revenues from the company portfolio. Clal's absorption of the Hasefeh portfolio was reflected in the results.

Premiums rose to NIS 453m. from NIS 373m. Premiums on life insurance increased 48% to NIS 169m. and general insurance by 5% to NIS 284m.

Cheaper car insurance rates were blamed for lower general insurance profits, which dropped to NIS 3.2m. from NIS 9.1m.

Avner Insurance has reported a net loss of NIS 5.6m. for the first quarter after earning a NIS 5.7m. profit for the same period last year. The company incurred a

NIS 21.6m. loss on investments, compared with a gain of NIS 12.9m. in the corresponding period last year.

Life insurance premiums rose to NIS 65.3m. from NIS 55.3m. Premiums on general insurance went up 13% to NIS 147.1m. from NIS 130.1m.

Quarterly per share loss was NIS 0.72, compared with per share earnings of NIS 0.73 in 1993.

Israel Land Development Insurance has reported a loss of NIS 1.8m., compared with a NIS 515,000 net profit for the same period last year.

The loss stemmed from poor performance on company investments in the TASE.

Losses per share were NIS 0.13, compared with a net profit of NIS 0.06 in the parallel period last year.

### ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Petah (foreign currency deposit rates) (19.5.94)				
Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	9 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	3.875	4.375	4.875	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.625	4.125	4.625	5.125
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.125	4.625	5.125	5.625
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	3.875	4.375	4.875	5.375
Yen (¥10 million yen)	2.875	3.375	3.875	4.375

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (19.5.94)				
Currency	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	2.8911	3.0332	2.94	3.08
German mark	1.8005	1.8320	1.78	1.86
Pound sterling	4.5281	4.5725	4.42	4.53
French franc	0.0294	0.0309	0.01	0.01
Japanese yen (100)	2.8955	2.9251	2.85	2.97
Dutch guilder	1.6132	1.6349	1.59	1.68
Swedish krona	2.1210	2.1509	2.08	2.18
Swiss franc	0.3883	0.3950	0.38	0.40
Norwegian krone	0.4174	0.4233	0.41	0.43
Denmark krone	0.4673	0.4725	0.46	0.48
Finland mark	0.0294	0.0309	0.01	0.01
Canadian dollar	2.1734	2.2040	2.14	2.24
Australian dollar	2.1855	2.2162	2.15	2.25
S. African rand	0.6151	0.6213	0.61	0.62
Belgian franc (10)	0.6782	0.6843	0.67	0.68
Austrian schilling (10)	2.3587	2.3894	2.33	2.43
Italian lira (1000)	1.8902	1.9108	1.85	1.95
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.17	4.43
Israeli pound	3.4907	3.5297	3.46	3.61
Irish punt	4.4352	4.4976	4.34	4.60
Spanish peseta (100)	2.1925	2.2234	2.13	2.28

\* These rates vary according to bank. \*\* Bank of Israel.  
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The U.S. - Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF) was established in 1972 to support cooperative science research projects between U.S. and Israeli scientists. Research projects are funded from the interest on an endowment established in equal shares by the two Governments. The office of the BSF is in Jerusalem.

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- Israeli applicants should send their material to:  
Mr. Amnon Einav, Chief Scientist  
Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure  
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### South African Economic Statistics

	Prices 1984	Prices 1984	% Change
Exchange rates:			
Commercial rand	3.657	3.605	-1.44%
(buy) Financial rand	4.880	4.740	-2.95%
Interest rates:			
Money market (BAAs)	10.85%	10.80%	0.46%
(Ry) Escom 1994:	9.30%	10.30%	-9.71%
Escom 2008	12.87%	12.38%	3.92%
Escom 2020	13.53%	12.85%	5.29%
RSA 150	12.90%	12.93%	-0.24%
Prices: Utl:			
UAL Max Income	14.28%	14.47%	-1.31%
OM Investors	39.4025	39.8627	1.40%
(buy) Guardbank	35.7157	35.5539	0.45%
UAL Gilt	12.4327	12.5443	-0.89%
Max Income	10.6439	10.6647	-0.20%
Shares: De Beers	109.00	102.25	6.60%
(close) Vial Reef	373.00	385.00	-3.12%
Anglo American	232.50	227.00	2.42%
Barlows	38.75	40.25	-3.73%
SA Brews	100.00	101.25	-1.23%
Sasol	23.75	34.75	-4.04%
Tiger Oats	52.00	54.00	-3.70%
Icor	3.36	3.39	-0.88%
JSE Actuarial Overall	5.457	5.441	0.30%

COMMENTS: Gilt came under renewed selling pressure, as the bears came to the fore on uncertainty about the country's economic future. Frankel Pollack Bond Trading Division said new reports that the national debt had soared in the final year of NP Government rule had unnerved the market and resulted in heavy selling. The expected post-election rush into Gilt from the U.S. and Europe had also failed to materialize, as investors waited for the budget and a country rating for S.A. While foreigners were probably still net Gilt buyers, there was unlikely to be substantial buying interest before the budget.

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### NEW YORK STOCK MARKET

Multi-sided trading

Two-sided trading

Afternoon

Morning

Two-Sided Index

Maof Index

Karam Index

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ANDRE LUMBRIGO

THE market did not cross the magic 200 line. Instead, it turned bullish on mediocre volume.

The Two-Sided Index rose one percent and the Maof by 1.2%. The Karam was the exception, declining 0.8%.

The gap between the Two-Sided and Karam indexes is at one of its lowest levels in a long time - 13% as opposed to a high of almost 50%.

Turnover was NIS 172 million, which underlines the weakness of the rise.

Had the market really gone on a buying binge, the turnover would have been higher by at least NIS 100m.

The 200 threshold for the Two-Sided Index is a psychological level.

In nominal terms, it represents the December 1992 level. In real terms, it is equivalent to approximately 175, which was the level of fall 1992.

This was before the peace agreements and the rapid growth of the last year and a half. Even the financial results of the companies did not deteriorate enough to warrant such a decline.

Those smart investors who are explaining why the market is overpriced at the present level may be right.

The only problem is that they were the ones who were explaining with the same measure of expertise that the market had no place

to go but up when the same index was at 240 a year ago, or 260 in today's terms.

The "low" price level did not convince investors to enter the Karam market during the morning trading.

It was the Two-Sided and the Maof which were the stars of the day from the first minute of trading. Prices rose steadily until the last half hour, when prices started declining some.

The highest rise of the Two-Sided was 1.3%.

Financial results continued to influence buying decisions.

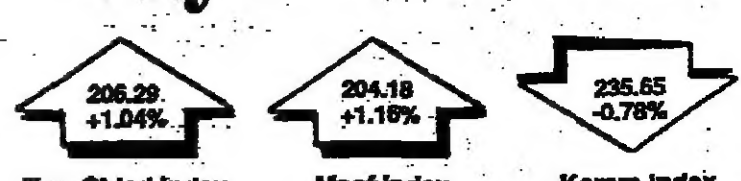
Adacom, which published "bad" results (losses of NIS 22.7m. for 1993, largely as a result of sharp losses in ASI) declined 10% without any trading in the share.

Urdan dropped 7.1% and Discount Investments 1.2% (bad reports). Tambour continued to rise after the publication of a rise in profits (+5.1%), as did Polgar (+4%).

Isramco rose 10%, although it is difficult to find justifications for this. Industrial Development Bank was up 4.8%. Koor rose 2.5%, Israel Chemicals was up 2.1% and FIBI 2.5%.

The bet on the trading floor was that the day's rises were largely a technical reaction. The expectation is that Sunday will be a continuation of the declines, or a return to a market running in place with mild rises and declines.

## Two-Sided up 1% but turnover only NIS 172m.



Two-Sided Index

Maof Index

Karam Index

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The 200 threshold for the Two-Sided Index is a psychological level.

In nominal terms, it represents the December 1992 level. In real terms, it is equivalent to approximately 175, which was the level of fall 1992.

This was before the peace agreements and the rapid growth of the last year and a half. Even the financial results of the companies did not deteriorate enough to warrant such a decline.

Those smart investors who are explaining why the market is overpriced at the present level may be right.

The only problem is that they were the ones who were explaining with the same measure of expertise that the market had no place

to go but up when the same index was at 240 a year ago, or 260 in today's terms.

The "low" price level did not convince investors to enter the Karam market during the morning trading.

It was the Two-Sided and the Maof which were the stars of the day from the first minute of trading. Prices rose steadily until the last half hour, when prices started declining some.

The highest rise of the Two-Sided was 1.3%.

Financial results continued to influence buying decisions.

Adacom, which published "bad" results (losses of NIS 22.7m. for 1993, largely as a result of sharp losses in ASI) declined 10% without any trading in the share.

Urdan dropped 7.1% and Discount Investments 1.2% (bad reports). Tambour continued to rise after the publication of a rise in profits (+5.1%), as did Polgar (+4%).

Isramco rose 10%, although it is difficult to find justifications for this. Industrial Development Bank was up 4.8%. Koor rose 2.5%, Israel Chemicals was up 2.1% and FIBI 2.5%.

The bet on the trading floor was that the day's rises were largely a technical reaction. The expectation is that Sunday will be a continuation of the declines, or a return to a market running in place with mild rises and declines.

## Warning against early rate cuts halts rally on FTSE

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Share prices closed higher, mainly due to a

firming gilt market, after British data and views from an independent panel of Treasury advisers buoyed sentiment on the inflation front.

But comments from Bank of England Governor Eddie George, who warned against premature rate cuts, helped take the edge off

gilt gains.

The FTSE 100 index closed 6.3 points up at 3,122.8.

FRANKFURT - German shares closed the low-volume, lackluster

session lower, but by weak DAX futures prices, dealers said.

Share prices are seen steady and activity is expected to tail off pending Friday's DAX options expiry.

The DAX index ended at 2,247.76, down 19.65 points on the day.

PARIS - French shares ended lower due to profit-taking, a weaker dollar and a lower Wall Street.

The Bank of France cut its intervention rate by 10 basis points to 5.40 percent, but this was as expected and had no noticeable impact on the market.

The CAC 40 index closed down 18.64, or 0.85 percent, to 2,165.35.

ZURICH - Swiss shares traded easier after weak futures led the market lower. The market was in a consolidation mood and today's options and futures expiry overshadowed trade.

The broad SPI closed 7.30 points down at 1,784.75.

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Wall Street stocks continued their winning streak yesterday for the third straight day, supported by a strong bond market.

The blue chip Dow Jones industrial average ended up 26.09 points at 3,758.98, according to early, unofficial results.

In the broad market, gaining issues led declines 13-8 on volume of 305 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange. The benchmark 30-year U.S. Treasury bond, which has climbed since the Federal Reserve boosted short-term interest rates on Tuesday, moved up another quarter-point and its yield slipped to 7.24 percent from 7.27 percent Wednesday.

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FRANKFURT



## 9 dead, 20 missing in Egyptian ferry blaze on Red Sea

CAIRO (Reuters) - Nine people died and about 20 were missing after a fire broke out on an Egyptian ferry carrying 584 people on the Red Sea on Wednesday night, officials said yesterday.

A security official from Egypt's Red Sea governorate said the victims were all Egyptians.

Dozens of passengers jumped into the sea to escape the fire which broke out on board the Qamar Al-Saudi ferry, travelling from the Saudi port of Jeddah to Egypt, he said.

Officials said rescue units had picked up 566 survivors and were trying to find others.

Some said they were uncertain of the numbers of rescued and those still missing because helicopters and at least four vessels were involved in rescue operations and survivors were taken to different locations.

A US navy ship had recovered 254 people from the blazing ship but two died before they reached the Red Sea town of Hurghada, the officials said.

Other survivors were picked up by three tugs working in the oil-fields of the Gulf of Suez. They

were taken to shore at the oil loading port in Gabal Zeit at the entrance to the Gulf, but one of them died, the officials added.

Five more people were plucked from the sea by helicopter, they said.

Major-General Salah Mokhtar, director of the Suez and Red Sea ports, said 10 rescue units were working in the area. Transport Minister Soliman Metwalli flew to the area to speak to rescue officials.

First reports said the fire broke out after a boiler exploded and oil seeped into the ship's engine room.

The ferry, which was bringing hundreds of Egyptians home for the three-day religious holiday of Eid al-Adha starting tomorrow, had been gutted by the fire and was almost completely submerged, the officials said.

The ferry had dropped off 300 passengers at the Egyptian port of Safage and was carrying 501 passengers and 83 crew north towards Suez. The fire broke out about 30 miles north of Safage.

Officials said earlier that all passengers had been rescued.

## Bosnian rivals ignore warnings

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - Major powers announced plans for a make-or-break meeting on Bosnia as France gave a blunt warning yesterday that it would start pulling out its peacekeepers unless there was decisive progress towards peace.

Despite the warning, Moslem and Serb forces clashed fiercely over a vital supply route.

France said it would begin to withdraw its peacekeepers if there was no progress towards ending the war before a last ditch meeting on Bosnia between the foreign ministers of the US, Russia and the European Union June 13.

The French declaration followed a British statement that the rival factions had about eight weeks to reach a settlement or face a relapse into full-scale war and withdrawal of UN troops and aid. But a senior US official said Washington expected all the Bos-

nian factions to attend peace talks in France next week, ahead of the June 13 meeting in Geneva.

"I know the Bosnian Moslems and Croats will be there and from what we've seen of the Serbs, it seems likely they will not insist on preconditions and they will be there as well," said the official, who asked not to be named.

French newspapers accused the Bosnian Serbs of forcing a humanitarian aid group to pay a ransom to win the release of 11 aid workers held for 40 days in a prison near Sarajevo.

The UN reported heavy fighting along a route linking the Moslem stronghold of Tuzla in the north with Sarajevo. It said there were also clashes in the Turbe-Travnik area in central Bosnia.

Tuzla and Zenica, another Moslem town near Sarajevo, were reported to have been shelled in the past 24 hours.

## Chunnel opens for business

COQUELLES, France (Reuters) - Eurotunnel officially opened for business yesterday as shuttle trains for the first time sped heavy-duty trucks loaded with goods in both directions under the channel separating England and France.

The first fare-paying customers made their 35-minute crossings through the Chunnel just 13 days after its inauguration.

The first shuttle, carrying 14 lorries, arrived in the British south coast town of Folkestone after its 50-kilometre transit.

Just 11 minutes earlier a shuttle had set off from Folkestone for this small north-eastern French town.

The Anglo-French company's

seven-year project, which cost \$15 billion, was officially opened May 6, but its use by paying clients was delayed.

Full-scale passenger service will not start until next year.

Eurotunnel has launched its freight service with once-an-hour shuttles between 0800 hours and midnight five days a week though it plans to step up the capacity over coming weeks.

By July it hopes to be able to provide a 24-hour-a-day service with 28-vehicle capacity shuttles leaving from both sides of the channel every 20 minutes.



Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis (c), Senator Edward Kennedy (l) and her children John F. Kennedy Jr. and Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg look on as Connecticut Governor Lowell Weicker accepts the 1992 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award in Boston. (Reuters, May 28, 1992 photo)

## 'There is nothing they can do' for ill Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis

NEW YORK (AP) - Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis has come home from the hospital and will get no more treatment for cancer because "there is nothing they can do for her," a spokeswoman said yesterday.

Family members gathered at the former first lady's side after doctors granted her wish Wednesday to leave New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, where she was treated for serious cancer complications.

"I think all the members of the family are distressed by the medical reports," her brother-in-law Sen. Edward Kennedy said Wednesday

after flying in from Washington. "All the members of the family love her very deeply. We wanted to be here this evening."

Mrs. Onassis, the widow of slain President John F. Kennedy, had been admitted Monday "as a result of serious complications of her malignant lymphoma," the hospital said. "In accordance with the patient's clearly expressed wishes and with the concurrence of her physicians, she has been discharged home."

The 64-year-old Mrs. Onassis announced earlier this year that she had non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancer of the lymph system.

Her spokeswoman, Nancy Tuckerman, said yesterday: "She's home, she's comfortable and she has family around her. There was nothing more to do for her at the hospital and she wanted to go home."

"She will not have any further treatment," Tuckerman said. "The disease has progressed and there is nothing they can do for her."

Asked if Mrs. Onassis was given how long she had to live, Tuckerman said: "They can't tell. Everyone is different. Obviously she's very ill."

## Mortar fire hits UN compound in Kigali

KIGALI (Reuters) - At least 12 mortar bombs and shells slammed into the United Nations compound in Rwanda's capital yesterday as fighting intensified between rebels and government forces.

"It seems there were no casualties," said a Reuters reporter pinned down by the fighting at the compound.

It was not clear who had fired the missiles but the UN's Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) is in an eastern part of the city held by rebels of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF).

During the heavy clashes, a hospital in a government-held part of Kigali was pounded by eight mortar bombs, killing 30 people, doctors said. Government sources said 50 had died.

A Swiss delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was wounded as he drove along the road between the capital and the town of Gitarama.

A sniper fired on him in the same spot five kms from the capital where a convoy carrying former French humanitarian affairs minister Bernard Kouchner was attacked on Sunday.

The rebels said they had carried out that attack because Kouchner was escorted by government soldiers. RPF leaders claimed they had seized control of the road.

The aid official, whose identity and condition were still unknown, was rescued with two other ICRC delegates by UNAMIR's military chief Major-General Romeo Dallaire and taken back to Kigali.

Witnesses said Dallaire, a Canadian, showed extraordinary bravery during the rescue, striding about in open ground to help the wounded aid worker.

Back at the UN headquarters,

Dallaire told staff members huddled up and wearing blue flak jackets: "It's simply going to get nastier until there is a ceasefire. Your fellows at the airport are huddled into foxholes."

Fighting close to the airport, east of the city, erupted at 2:00 a.m.

It was not clear if government forces defending the Kanombe barracks were trying to dislodge rebels on the nearby Gasogi Hill or whether guerrillas were on the offensive, but small arms fire and mortar explosions could be heard.

## North puts noose around Aden

SAN'A (AP) - Northern troops said they gained ground in a central oil region and tightened their grip on the approaches to the southern stronghold of Aden in battles yesterday that catapulted the country into a third week of civil war.

The thrust in the Shabwah region appeared aimed at cutting off Aden, the country's economic powerhouse, from the oil fields to the east and northeast.

But there was no sign the northern troops were getting any nearer to Aden, Yemen's largest port and site of the country's only oil refinery.

San'a radio said northern troops tightened their hold on the area around the al-Anad southern military base, a large complex 35 miles (56 kms) northwest of Aden.

The base has been at the center of a see-saw battle for control of the main road to Aden for several days. Aden radio yesterday reiterated its previous statements that the base has not fallen to northern troops.

The claims by both sides have often proved exaggerated since civil war broke out three weeks ago in this impoverished nation of 14 million people on the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula.

War erupted after several months of skirmishes between the north and the south. Southerners accuse the north of trying to dominate Yemen, whose north and south merged into a united nation in May 1990.

Reporters who visited al-Anad on Wednesday were told by local commanders that the army camp was taken by the northerners, but that the air base to its south was still in southern hands.

A fierce artillery, rocket and air battle raged around the base. San'a radio said yesterday that northern forces captured 22 southern rocket launchers there.

"The heroes of the armed forces continue advancing toward completion of the plan in this area," the radio said, without elaborating on the plan.

The broadcast added that north-

ern brigades closed off the Abyan region east of Aden for a possible pincer attack on the city from that direction, the second prong in the offensive.

They also took control of the Nisab district about 170 miles (275 kilometers) northeast of Aden, the radio claimed.

In a later broadcast, it said northern troops were advancing on Ataq, the capital of the oil-producing Shabwah region, which was the scene of fighting earlier in the week.

The capture of Ataq, where the south has a major air base, would give the north control of the entire swathe of central Yemen and cut Aden off from the oil regions of Hadramawt.

Two southern planes also were shot down by northern forces, northern-controlled San'a radio also claimed, without giving a location.

Arnold Luethold of the International Committee of the Red Cross said the north has captured more than 1,000 southern prisoners.

## Gitano founders sentenced for import fraud

NEW YORK (AP) - Two brothers who co-founded the Gitano clothing company were sentenced to six months of house detention after pleading guilty to falsely labeling garments to avoid import quotas. Prosecutors said the company labeled garments that were made in Malaysia and China as "Made in Maldives." There were no quotas on imports from the Maldives Islands.

Haim and Isaac Dabah also were ordered to perform 300 hours of community service and fined \$20,000 each.

The Dababs begged US District Judge Robert Patterson not to send them to jail.

"If you put us in jail, your honor, I don't think I can go on with anything. All I ask is that you give me a second chance to rebuild my life," said Isaac, 36.

His brother, Haim, 42, sobbed.

The Gitano Group Inc. had sales of \$800 million a year before going bankrupt this year.

## Malawi's Banda concedes defeat

BLANTYRE ((Reuters) - Malawi's President Kamuzu Banda conceded victory yesterday to opposition leader Bakili Muluzi after ruling the small central African nation with an iron fist for over 30 years.

In a halting voice, Banda congratulated Muluzi, 51, over state radio for winning the country's first multi-party elections since independence from Britain in 1964.

Tens of thousands of singing, chanting Malawians poured into the streets of the commercial capital Blantyre in celebration, many waving the yellow flag of Muluzi's United Democratic Front (UDF).

"Although the results of the elections have not been officially confirmed and announced, there is every indication from the votes counted so far that Muluzi is the clear winner in the contest for president."

"I wish to congratulate him wholeheartedly for his win," said the ailing Banda, who is believed to be in his mid-90s.

The defeated president, who once said he would feed his opponents to the crocodiles, pledged that he and his Malawi Congress Party (MCP) would support and cooperate with the new government.

With returns still coming in, the UDF looked set to win a majority in the enlarged 177-seat parliament following Tuesday's presidential and parliamentary elections. Many of the 3.7 million eligible voters cast their ballots in the impoverished nation of 9.7 million people.

"May I offer (Muluzi) my full support and cooperation as he takes over the presidency of this country. As one of the incoming opposition parties, I wish to assure him that the MCP will work with the UDF government in building a better and democratic Malawi," Banda said.

He thanked Malawians for their support over the years and for the peaceful manner in which they went to the polls.

"Now is the time to bury all our political differences and work together for a united and prosperous Malawi...I hope that all the political parties will remain friends and not enemies," Banda said.

The outgoing president started to lose his grip on power two years ago under increasing domestic and international pressure for political reform.

Western donor nations cut off vital development aid over his government's human rights record, and only started to provide funds once more after a referendum last year in which Malawians voted overwhelmingly to end Banda's autocratic one-party rule.

He had been ailing visibly since undergoing brain surgery last year in South Africa - a country with which he maintained close ties in defiance of other African states through the apartheid era.

But despite Muluzi's victory, many Malawians voted along tribal lines, giving overwhelming support to the UDF leader in his native south, backing Banda in central regions of the largely rural country, and giving support to the other main opposition candidate, Chakufwa Chihana, in northern areas.

Muluzi, in a news conference earlier this week, vowed to prosecute members of the outgoing government suspected of crimes.

"If people have evidence of any crime or whoever committed any crime, they should come forward and inform us as a government and there will be a police case."

"But we will not go and start witch-hunting. There is this history in Africa where governments change hands and people start quarrelling. We don't want that to happen in Malawi," the bespectacled UDF leader said.

Our dearest

**JUDITH YARON**

has passed away.

The funeral will take place at Kiryat Shaul on Friday, May 20, at 11:00 a.m.

The Yaron and Dagan Family

We mourn the passing of our beloved friend

**PAUL SHOLMAN**

and extend our deepest sympathy to Rose.

Her friends  
Iona Kaplan  
Keren and Schlomo Diskin  
Yael and Elial Diskin

To mark the first yorzeit of our beloved

**GERRY (Yoel) JACOBSON**

there will be a *hazkara* at the graveside, on Thursday, May 26 (Sivan 16) at 5:30 p.m., at Herzliya Cemetery, Rehov Pisker.

The Family

On the first yahrzeit of our beloved

**VITA AUSUBEL**

there will be an *azkara* on Sunday, May 22, 1994, at 9:30 a.m., at Eretz Hachaim Cemetery, Beit Shemesh, Shimon Junction. A bus will leave from Binyanei Ha'uma, at 8:30 a.m. For reservations, please call (02) 632563.

Dr. Yitzhak Ausubel and Family

## Indian leader strengthens ties with Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) - India's Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and President Clinton sought yesterday to improve frayed relations between the two democracies by focusing on growing economic ties. Clinton predicted a "deeper and better relationship."

But remaining differences over human rights and nuclear proliferation clouded the Oval Office

meeting between the two leaders - the first visit to Washington by an Indian prime minister since 1987.

"India is the world's largest democracy by a long ways and a very important partner of the United States on many issues," Clinton said.

Clinton sidestepped a question on India's continued refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation

Treaty.

Congress also appeared anxious to help patch up relations with India, convening a joint meeting of the House and Senate on Wednesday, the first to hear a foreign leader during Clinton's presidency. The Senate began confirmation hearings Tuesday for Clinton's nominee as ambassador to India, Frank Wisner.

Our beloved

**PESSA KANDINOFF**

has passed away.

The funeral will take place today, Friday, May 20, 1994 (Sivan 10, 5754) at 11:45 a.m., at Kiryat Shaul Cemetery. We shall meet at the gate.

Batsheva Salmon  
Liza Shein (USA)  
and all the family

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June 1

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Tour guide - Moll Brog. Price NIS 110

Tuesday

June 7

"UNDERGROUND JERUSALEM"

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Reservations and further information: SHORASHIM, POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel, Rehavia, Jerusalem, 91074. Tel 02-666231 (9 a.m. - 3 p.m.) ask for Tami, Varda, Laila.



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#### Museums

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Anita Zyl



# Knicks scrape by Bulls



NEW YORK (AP) — Hubert Davis' two free throws with 2.1 seconds left, after being fouled on a 20-foot jumper, gave the New York Knicks an 87-86 victory over Chicago on Wednesday night and a 3-2 lead in their Eastern Conference semi-final series.

The outcome pulled the Knicks within a victory of their first series.

Playoffs on Cable TV  
On Sports Channel 5: Atlanta-Indiana/ Denver-Utah playoffs today at 18:30 and again tomorrow at 8:00 and 15:30.

Successful playoff series ever against the Bulls, who are 5-0 in the post-season against New York, including each of the last three seasons. In the last two years, the teams were tied after four games, but this time the Knicks reversed the trend shooting and 14 points in the fourth quarter. The Bulls scored

15 in the final period, the fifth consecutive game this season they've failed to reach 20 in the last 12 minutes. The Knicks trailed 86-85 when they inbounded with 7.6 seconds left. John Starks drove to the basket but was cut off and passed to Davis, whose jumper from the top of the key hit the back of the rim. But he was fouled by Scottie Pippen after releasing the ball and sank both free throws for the one-point lead.

On the Bulls' last chance, Anthony Mason tipped away an inbound pass intended for Pippen. Starks picked up the loose ball just before the buzzer.

Patrick Ewing had 20 points and 13 rebounds, Charles Oakley 16 points and Charles O'Neal 14 points and 11 rebounds for the Knicks. Pippen scored 23 points, B.J. Armstrong 21 and Horace Grant 14 for the Bulls, who play host for Game 6 Friday night.

The Knicks regain point guard Derek Harper for the next game. He was suspended for two games by the league for fighting in Game 3. Game 7 would be Sunday in New York if Chicago wins.

Consecutive baskets by Ewing, his first points since the first quar-

ter, gave the Knicks a 79-73 lead with nine minutes left. The Bulls pulled within one four times, the last time at 85-84 on Pippen's two free throws with 1:29 left, before Armstrong gave them an 86-85 edge with 44 seconds left, just before the 24-second clock expired. Ewing, fouled by Bill Cartwright, missed two crucial free throws with 31 seconds left, but the Knicks got the ball back with 7.6 seconds remaining after a missed shot by Armstrong.

NBA Playoff Glance

Semi-finals (Best of 7)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

New York 87, Chicago 86, New York leads series 3-2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Utah leads Denver 3-2, Houston leads Phoenix 3-2

Last night's scheduled games:

Atlanta at Indiana

Houston at Phoenix

Utah at Denver

Today:

New York at Chicago

Tomorrow:

Phoenix at Houston

Denver at Utah

Sunday:

Indiana at Atlanta

Chicago at New York

x-if necessary

## Schott says no earrings

CINCINNATI (AP) — Cincinnati Reds owner Marge Schott, suspended from baseball last year for racial slurs, said Wednesday she doesn't want her players to wear earrings because "only fruits wear earrings."

In her speech to 115 members of the Ohio County Treasurers Association, Schott never directly alluded to homosexual men. But many in the audience felt she was referring to homosexuals.

"You know what she meant, so did I," said Bobbie Hall, Franklin County treasurer and president of the group. "And I agree with her. Some people who went to school before or around World War II just look at it that way."

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta 24 13 .648 3

Florida 22 18 .550 3 1/2

New York 20 19 .513 5

Philadelphia 17 22 .435 6 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati 24 14 .632 1

St. Louis 20 18 .526 4

Houston 20 19 .513 4 1/2

Pittsburgh 18 20 .475 5

Chicago 14 24 .368 10

West Division

Los Angeles 22 18 .550 1

San Francisco 21 19 .525 1 1/2

Colorado 17 22 .435 6 1/2

San Diego 10 29 .256 11 1/2

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

New York 25 12 .676 1

Boston 25 13 .658 1 1/2

Baltimore 20 18 .526 4

Toronto 19 20 .487 5 1/2

Detroit 16 21 .432 6 1/2

Central Division

Chicago 21 17 .558 1

Kansas City 20 17 .541 1 1/2

Cleveland 19 17 .525 1 1/2

Minnesota 17 21 .447 4

West Division

Seattle 18 19 .486 3

San Diego 17 22 .435 6 1/2

Oakland 11 29 .275 11 1/2

WEDNESDAY'S NL RESULTS:

Montreal 6, Philadelphia 1

Chicago 5, San Diego 4

Atlanta 3, Cincinnati 1

Florida 4, New York 3

Houston 4, San Francisco 2

Los Angeles 5, Colorado 2

WEDNESDAY'S AL RESULTS:

Minnesota 13, New York 5

Texas 6, Oakland 2

Cleveland 5, Milwaukee 3

Toronto 9, Detroit 3

Boston 5, Baltimore 2

California 3, Chicago 2

Kansas City 7, Seattle 6 (10)

Today on Cable TV

CHANNEL 5

10:00 Countdown to the World Cup 11:30

Baseball league soccer 12:30 Argentinean

league soccer 13:30 Spanish league soccer

15:00 WFF 16:00 Bushido 17:00 Mondiale

17:30 Special: English league soccer 19:30

4 highlights 18:30 NBA playoff 21:45 Table

tennis 22:45 Gymkhana 23:45 European

soccer magazine

EUROSPORT

9:30 Aerobics 10:00 Tennis 12:00 Leisure

sports 12:30 ATP tennis 13:00 The road to

the World Cup 14:00 Motoring magazine

15:00 Snooker 16:00 NHL 17:00 Live tennis

from Paris 20:00 Motorcycling magazine

20:30 Eurosport news 21:00 International

motoring magazine 22:00 Body building

23:00 Boxing 00:00 Cycling 1:00 Judo 2:30

Eurosport news

PRIME SPORTS

6:00 Horse racing 6:30 Motoring magazine

7:30 Rugby 8:30 Golf 10:30 Formula 1

11:30 WFF 12:30 Asian soccer show 13:30

Motor racing 14:00 International sport

magazine 14:30 NBA behind the scenes 15:30

Live badminton from Indonesia 15:30 WFF

20:30 Asian soccer show 21:30 Motor racing

22:00 Live golf from Ohio 00:00 Formula

1 00:30 WFF 2:00 Asian soccer show

SATURDAY MAY 21

CHANNEL 5

8:00 NBA playoff 9:30 Spanish league soccer

11:00 Mondiale 11:30 European soccer

magazine 12:30 English league soccer

19:30 4 highlights 19:30 Volleyball 14:30

Israeli show-jumping 15:30 NBA playoff 17:30

World rugby 18:00 Tennis 18:30 Special:

handball highlights 19:00 Israeli show-jumping

19:30 Mondiale 20:00 WFF 21:00 Bushido

22:00 Live NBA playoff: Phoenix v

Houston or Denver v Utah

EUROSPORT

9:30 Aerobics 10:00 European Cupwinners'

Cup soccer 12:00 Cycling 13:00 Boxing

14:00 Motorcycling magazine 14:30 Live

tennis from Paris 15:00 Live cycling 20:30

Live 22:30 Motor racing 23:30 Live boxing

1:00 Judo 2:00 NHL

PRIME SPORTS

6:00 Badminton from Indonesia 9:00 Golf

11:00 World of rugby 11:30 Tennis 13:00

Motor racing 13:30 European soccer show

14:30 WFF 15:30 Motor racing 16:30 Live

badminton from Indonesia 15:30 WFF

20:30 Live golf from Ohio 00:00 Tennis

1:30 Motor racing

## McEnroe: Minimum age for tennis needs raising

NEW YORK (AP) — Tennis star John McEnroe says Jennifer Capriati's recent problems should convince tennis authorities to raise the minimum age for turning pro.

"It's a perfect example of little girls that were put out there way too early," McEnroe said Wednesday when asked about Capriati's troubles, including her arrest Monday for marijuana possession in Florida.

Capriati turned pro just before her 14th birthday, and was an immediate sensation. But injuries and a desire to lead a more normal life caused her to leave the tour last fall.

McEnroe, who won seven Grand Slam singles titles in his career, said it's "very unhealthy" for players to turn pro at 13 or 14.

"They don't have a concept of

what \$5 is, let alone \$5 million," he said.

Capriati's arrest was her second brush with the law in five months. In December, she was cited by Tampa police for allegedly shoplifting a \$15 ring from a mall.

Despite her problems, McEnroe said he expects Capriati to return to the tour. "I don't think there's any question whether she'll play again," he said. "What else is she going to do?"

One of the two people arrested with Capriati, 20-year-old Tom Wineland, alleged in an interview that she also used crack cocaine and a dangerous combination of painkillers and alcohol during a two-day drug orgy over the weekend.

Capriati paid for the drugs last weekend with cash advances from

her credit cards, and the others arrested with her went out to buy them because she was too high to go along, said Edward Abramson, attorney for Wineland.

Wineland was quoted Wednesday in several London tabloids saying Capriati used a variety of drugs while he was with her.

"We smoked the crack (cocaine) together in the bathroom," Wineland was quoted as saying. "She was also eating painkillers and drinking. That makes you go pretty high. She smoked (crack) for a couple of hours, and then when we stopped, we started smoking reefer."

Wineland met Capriati only a few days before they were arrested on Monday, Abramson said. Capriati checked into the Gables Inn last Saturday.



The AC Milan team celebrates with the Champions Cup after defeating Barcelona 4-0 Wednesday at Athens Olympic Stadium. (AP)

## Mac. Haifa poised to take throne

MACCABI Haifa's epic battle for the National League soccer championship looks like it's finally reaching its climax tomorrow evening when the team takes to the field at the National Stadium in Ramat Gan against Maccabi Petah Tikva.

Arch rivals Maccabi Tel Aviv managed to spoil the anticipated victory celebrations last weekend with its 2-1 win against Maccabi Herzliya. Nevertheless, the magnificent Haifites enter Round 37 holding a seven-point lead with just nine points left to play for.

A Haifa victory over Petah Tikva will result in the title crown going to Haifa for the first time since the team won the double in the 1990-1991 season. With Maccabi Petah Tikva still likely to be nursing the after-effects of its mid-week loss to Hapoel Tel Aviv in the semifinal of the State Cup, Haifa seems likely to overcome the side it has already beaten twice in the league this campaign.

The Haifites are still undefeated in the league this season, so a loss is almost unthinkable — but a draw

DEREK FATTAL

would still add extra spice to the finishing race if Maccabi Tel Aviv can register a victory against Bnei Yehuda in the Tel Aviv mini derby.

At the other end of the table, Haifa's second representative, Hapoel, remains four points adrift of Hapoel Kfar Sava and desperately needs to savor the sweet taste of victory in its away match against Maccabi Netanya this afternoon if it is to avoid having the last rites administered.

The Kfar Savans, meanwhile, face a bitter away encounter at Ironi Ashdod, the next-placed side in the table. Ironi holds a five-point safety margin over Kfar Sava.

Higher up the table the fight for third place continues between Hapoel Beersheba and Bnei Yehuda. Hapoel, currently four points ahead of the Betars, plays away at Maccabi Herzliya, while the Jerusalemites play in the first of tomorrow's matches at Ramat Gan against Hapoel Petah Tikva. Betar

needs to win to avoid third place and the possibility of a slot in the UEFA Cup going to the southerners.

The remaining match in the top division takes place at Bloomfield, with Hapoel Tel Aviv hosting Hapoel Holon. This is the only contest of the round that involves two mid-table sides and can be said to be of academic interest only.

There is plenty of interest in the Second Division however, with six teams still in the hunt for the three potential promotion places to the National League. Top side Ironi Rishon LeZion won promotion several weeks ago, and at the bottom Maccabi Acre looks likely to take the big drop with the already doomed Daliat el-Carmel.

This weekend's National League fixtures (kick-off 5 pm tomorrow unless otherwise stated): Maccabi Netanya vs. Hapoel Haifa, Netanya, 4.30 pm today; Hapoel Petah Tikva vs. Bnei Yehuda, National Stadium, Ramat Gan; Bnei Yehuda vs. Maccabi Tel Aviv, Herta Quarter; Maccabi Herzliya vs. Hapoel Beersheba, Herzliya; Ironi Ashdod vs. Hapoel Kfar Sava, Ashdod; Hapoel Tel Aviv vs. Hapoel Be'er Sheva, Bloomfield, 6 pm; Maccabi Petah Tikva vs. Maccabi Haifa, National Stadium, Ramat Gan, 7 pm.

## Millwall charged over fan violence

LONDON (AP) — The Millwall soccer team was charged with misconduct yesterday by the English Football Association after seven people were injured and 16 arrested in fan violence at a promotional playoff game.

Millwall's 3-1 loss to Derby in

the Division One playoff semifinals Wednesday night was marred by two field invasions and a rampage by hooligans in the parking lot after the game.

"A commission will be set up to consider the case and a wide range of punishments is available," FA spokesman David Davies said.

Millwall, a club with a notorious history of fan violence, has 14 days to answer the charge of failure to control supporters.

ENGLISH SOCCER — Wednesday's games: Promotional playoffs, semifinals, second leg. DIVISION ONE: Leicester 2, Tranmere 1 (Leicester advances on 2-1 aggregate).

Millwall 1, Derby 3 (Derby advances on 5-1 aggregate).

DIVISION TWO: Plymouth 1, Barnley 3 (Barnley advances on 3-1 aggregate).

Stockport 1, York 0 (Stockport advances on 1-0 aggregate).

DIVISION THREE: Preston 4, Torquay 1 (after extra time; Preston led 3-1 after 90 minutes; Preston advances on 4-3 aggregate).

Wycombe 2, Carlisle 1 (Wycombe advances on 4-1 aggregate).

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## Canucks get by Leafs to tie series, 1-1

TORONTO (AP) — Jyrki Lumme scored a power-play goal with 4:14 left in the third period to lead the Vancouver Canucks to a 4-3 victory over the Toronto Maple Leafs Wednesday night and a 1-1 tie in their NHL Western Conference final.

Toronto's Dave Ellett had scored a power-play goal at 4:37 of the final period to tie the game at 3. The series resumes with Games 3, 4 and 5 in Vancouver today, Sunday and Tuesday.

NHL Playoff Glance  
Finals (Best-of-7)  
EASTERN CONFERENCE

NY Rangers-New Jersey series tied 1-1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Wednesday's result:

Vancouver 4, Toronto 3

series tied 1-1

Last night's scheduled game:

NY Rangers at New Jersey

Today:

Toronto at Vancouver

Tomorrow:

NY Rangers at New Jersey

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## Merom: Labor's corruption is no different from Likud's

DAN IZENBERG

ECONOMICS Minister Shimon Shetreet yesterday tried to defend government conduct as revealed in the state comptroller's 44th report from the criticism of legislators, including a scathing attack by Labor MK Hagai Merom.

Merom, who has embarrassed the government from the podium before — by attacking the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office and calling for direct talks with the PLO when the organization was still anathema — pulled out all the stops this time.

After reminding the plenum of how an earlier state comptroller's report on political corruption and mishandling of funds had brought down the Likud government, Merom said: "This year's report includes all these elements and more. It contains corruption, violations of proper administration, political appointments in a number of government offices, twisted money transfers, bypass transfers — it's got everything. The report contains exactly the same comments which were included in the one that sent the Likud to the opposition benches."

Merom took a direct swipe at Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin when he said it was not too late to correct matters as long as the premier straightened out his priorities.

"In order to put a stop to this irresponsible, and, at times, illegal behavior in some of the government offices, the prime minister must — and I call upon him to do so — make it clear that he will not refrain from drawing personal conclusions regarding anyone who has not operated within the bounds of the law or proper administration. This is much more important than the question of burekas on the cabinet table or permission for ministers to be interviewed at the end of cabinet meetings."

Shetreet said the cabinet would meet on Sunday to discuss the report. "The government's attitude is to take seriously every recommendation, every comment and every finding of the state comptroller," he said.

## Ramon, Peretz, Avital not planning to return to Labor

SARAH HONIG

MKS Haim Ramon, Amir Peretz, and Shmuel Avital have indicated to their closest associates in Labor that they do not — at this juncture — plan to return to the party.

Labor, meanwhile, plans a swift passage in the Knesset of a compromise on Ramon's original national health insurance bill, whose initial rejection by the party triggered his Histadrut candidacy.

The three spoke to their allies at a Wednesday night session of what used to be known as "the gang of eight." This is the first time the ultra-dovish group has met with all its eight MKs present since Ramon, Peretz, and Avital were expelled from Labor. The group also includes Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin and MKs Hagai Merom, Avraham Burg, Yael Dayan, and Nawaf Massalha.

These five have been energetically campaigning for the other three's return to Labor, but Ramon reportedly told them that the issue is not on his agenda just now and that it will not be until Labor formally retracts its letters of expulsion. Even then, he said, he would not necessarily return.

Ramon's position was not welcome news to his friends, as they had been counting on the return of the three to press for Merom and Burg to get cabinet portfolios, which they figure Labor should receive in the upcoming cabinet reshuffle.

If the three stay out, Labor would be due one portfolio less than the group had been counting on. Labor had been claiming an extra portfolio ever since Meretz received its fourth portfolio, thus changing the ratio between a faction's number of MKs and its number of ministers.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin plans to reshuffle his cabinet as soon as the Histadrut coalition negotiations are concluded. At that point, he believes, Ramon's intentions ought to become clear.

Labor plans to announce an "amnesty" for those expelled from the party because they challenged an official Labor list either in the Histadrut or the local elections last November. This was supposed to pave the way for Ra-

mon's return.

Another Labor attempt to attract Ramon back would be to insure the swift passage of the compromise national health bill put together months ago by Finance Minister Avraham Shohat. The compromise was accepted by Ramon, but rejected by Labor at the urging of the Histadrut. It leaves some of the Kupa Holim Clalit dues, which are to be collected by the National Insurance Institute, at the disposal of the Histadrut.

The Labor central committee is to be convened on Thursday to formally accept the compromise, which will then be rammed through the Knesset. Ramon has indicated that the time for compromises is past and that he now insists on his original bill. But Labor is sure "he will go for the compromise, especially since as the Histadrut's new chief, he will hold its purse strings and will enjoy the share of the Kupa Holim income which is to be put at the Histadrut's disposal. His priorities are now different than they were before the Histadrut elections," according to a Labor source.

## Shas's Azran says he won't rejoin coalition

SARAH HONIG

SHAS MK Yosef Azran has informed his party that he will not rejoin the coalition even if it does so.

Azran's move comes as Shas is close to finalizing the agreement on re-entering the government.

Sources in Shas said Azran may yet be joined by MK Aryeh Gamliel and, at a later stage, by faction chairman MK Shlomo Benizri.

Azran is reportedly angry over Shas leader Aryeh Deri's insistence that Shas appoint a minister to only one of the two portfolios —

interior and religious affairs — which Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has offered it.

Apparently, Deri prefers that no minister replace him at the Interior Ministry, thus allowing him to continue running it by proxy, as he has since the court banned him from serving in an executive capacity due to the corruption charges still pending against him.

Deri has ear-marked MK Moshe Maiya as Shas's only minister.



Paratroopers enjoy a day of fun in the pool at Tel Aviv's Country Club yesterday. (IDF Spokesman)

## Biker bandit's motorcycle given to Bank Leumi

EVELYN GORDON

THE motorcycle used by "ofnbandit" Roni Leibovich to commit 22 bank robberies should be given to Bank Leumi, not the state, the Supreme Court ruled yesterday.

The state claimed the bike was forfeit by law because it was used to commit a crime. However, Leumi said it had a prior claim on the bike, because Leibovich had used as collateral for a loan on which he had defaulted.

During a hearing in Tel Aviv District Court, however, the bank neglected this point, arguing instead that the state had no claim because the bike was not definitely identified as the one used in the robberies.

The court rejected both this argument and the suit, ruling that the bike's identification was positive, but pointed out in its verdict that an argument based on the bank's collateral rights would have been stronger. Leumi therefore appealed on these grounds.

The state did not deny the validity of Leumi's claim, but asked the Supreme Court to let it sell the bike and give the money to Leumi, rather than letting Leumi sell it. If Leumi sold the bike, publicizing the

fact that it had belonged to Leibovich, it would give the criminal unjustified publicity, the state argued. It therefore preferred to sell the bike itself, without using Leibovich's name.

Furthermore, the state said, the bike's market value is less than the loan. But since people are likely to pay above market value for such a famous bike, Leibovich would be left with less of a debt than if he had never committed a crime, and would therefore benefit from his criminality.

However, Justices Meir Shamgar, Gavriel Bach, and Eliahu Matza rejected these arguments, saying neither was sufficient to outweigh the bank's right to get as much money for the bike as it could. The law allowing the state to confiscate objects used in a crime was meant to punish the criminal, not innocent third parties, they wrote.

However, they said, it was clear that the state would have had the right to the bike if Leumi had not had a prior claim. Therefore, should the bike sell for more than the loan was worth, the balance will be given to the state rather than to Leibovich.

## Channel 1 loses screening rights to soccer broadcasts

LIAT COLLINS

ISRAEL Television's Channel 1 has lost the rights to broadcast National League soccer as of next season.

Channel 2 made the Israel Football Association (IFA) an offer for the rights, while Channel 1, which has broadcast the games ever since its inception in 1968, failed to even enter a bid.

According to Israel Broadcasting Authority director-general Mordechai Kirschenbaum, the price demanded by the IFA was prohibitive, reaching \$30 million for a three-year deal.

"Our money is public money and the IBA has no way of returning that money to the license-fee payer via these broadcasts," Kirschenbaum said yesterday. "If we were to end up with a deficit because of these costs, we'd have to ask the government for more funds, and the minute we do that we will be killing our freedom [from political intervention]."

IBA officials admitted that they thought the high cost of the broadcast rights would deter other groups from bidding for them, and that the price would therefore come down.

That error of judgment was described by some ITV workers as one of the blackest days in the history of ITV, and sports department head Yoash Alroey was reportedly in a rage over the decision not to enter a bid.

Kirschenbaum said the IBA is having difficulties sticking to its budget this year because of political developments. According to IBA officials, 50 percent of this year's budget was spent in the first four months of the year, due to the expense of covering stories related to the peace process.

Ori Lewis contributed to this report.

## April's road casualty toll: 33 dead, 286 seriously injured

JOSE ROSENFELD

THIRTY-three people were killed and 286 were seriously injured on the nation's roads in April, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

Fatalities dropped 25 percent from March, and serious injuries decreased by 7.8%. The number of accidents last month edged down 2.5%, while the number of injured persons decreased 8.4%.

There has been a sharp drop of 20% in accidents since the beginning of the year, compared with the same period last year. Fatalities fell 15.7% and serious injuries decreased by 12.7%.

According to police records, there were 1,517 road accidents that killed or injured 2,630 people last month. Thirty of the accidents involved fatalities, and 244 led to serious injuries.

## Arab MKs to boycott no-confidence vote on Id al-Adha

DAN IZENBERG

THE Arab MKs, almost all of whom support the government, threw a scare into the coalition yesterday, when they announced they would boycott next week's no-confidence vote because it is scheduled during the Moslem and Druse holiday of Id al-Adha.

Without their support, and assuming that Shas were to abstain, as it has until now, the government would have faced almost certain defeat.

However, Likud faction chairman Moshe Katsav announced the Likud would agree to pair off with all of the absent Arab MKs. Katsav explained that he did not want to give Speaker Shimon Peres a pretext for postponing the debate, which could serve as a precedent for future, politically advantageous postponements.

Meanwhile, Labor was still trying to head off a no-confidence motion by United Tora Judaism on the army's alleged desecration of Shavuot and Shabbat during its withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

Labor's main concern is that a no-confidence motion on a religious issue by the only other hard-right party in the Knesset would force Shas to vote against the government. So far, Labor has managed to mollify UTJ at the last minute three times and persuade it to drop no-confidence motions on religious matters.

Yesterday, Labor faction chairman Eli Dayan issued a defense of the army's actions in Gaza, saying

they were "essential and could not be deferred because they involved the saving of lives." Dayan said defense officials would provide UTJ with a detailed explanation of the circumstances obliging the speedy evacuation.

Tanet and the NRP have also submitted a no-confidence motion over the Gaza withdrawal on the Jewish holy days and the government's alleged "acquiescence" to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's jihad threat.

Writing on behalf of the Arab MKs — Walid Sadek (Meretz), Salah Tarif (Labor), Assad Assad (Likud), Tawfik Ziad (Hadash), Hashem Mahameed (Hadash), Abdul Wahab Darawhe (Democratic Arab Party), and Taleb A-Sanaa (DAP) — Nawaf Massalha (Labor) told Weis: "Id al-Adha is the most important holiday for the Moslem and Druse communities. This is the second year the opposition has submitted a no-confidence motion on our holiday. Previously we kept quiet; this time we won't. We ask you to postpone the vote. We Arabs won't come."

### Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the 10 of spades, eight of hearts, ace of diamonds and king of clubs.

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## Czechs want Israel to upgrade their MiGs

ALON PINKAS

ISRAEL and the Czech Republic yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding on defense cooperation under which Israel will help upgrade the aging Czech MIG fighter squadrons.

Visiting Czech Defense Minister Antonin Baudys, and Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed the agreement in Tel Aviv yesterday. "The Czech Republic views with great interest defense cooperation with Israel, from both the strategic and business aspects," Baudys said.

During a visit to Israel Aircraft Industries, Baudys was briefed by IAI managing director Moshe Keret on the maintenance, repair and upgrading capabilities of IAI. Baudys expressed interest in purchasing defense electronics goods from Israeli industries, especially from high-tech companies like Elbit, Rafael and El-Op.

During the War of Independence in 1948, Czechoslovakia supplied Israel with critically needed arms and ammunition. "History is cyclical. In the past, we helped you, today we are interested in your know-how to modernize our military," said Baudys.

## Golan wind farm won't be expanded

PLANS for further development of a "wind farm" to produce energy on the Golan Heights are being scrapped, after it emerged that its expansion would interfere with IDF activities.

Over 10 years of research had gone into the plan. One wind generator had already been erected at Tel Asania, and another one was under construction at Tel Sindian.

Engineer Avi Ze'ira, one of the farm's developers, said that before the plan were canceled, attempts were made within the Knesset and the Defense Ministry to come to a compromise with the army, but to no avail.

The Tel Asania site will continue to operate for now, in an attempt to earn back the large sums of money expended on the project, Ze'ira said.

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## GALA CONCERT BENEFITS CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER AND THE JERUSALEM POST TOY FUND



On May 17, a gala concert was held in aid of the Children's Medical Center of Israel (CMCI) and The Jerusalem Post Toy Fund. The concert was initiated and organized by Hachadut Olei Britannia (British Settlers Association).

British Ambassador R. Andrew Burns extended his patronage to the event, and greetings were sent by President Ezer Weizman. Some 300 guests attended, including Mrs. Aura Herzog, the wife of the former president and Chairwoman of CMCI's Public Council, Jerusalem Post Vice-President Avi Golan, CMCI Director Prof. Yehuda Danon, and British Consul John White.

All the artists appearing in the concert donated their services to this worthy cause. The program consisted of a wide variety of popular classical works, performed by various ensembles. The evening was compered by actor and entertainer Shai Schwartz.

The event, which included a wine and cheese reception, all the catering being supplied as donations, took place in the beautiful new auditorium of the Felsenstein Medical Research Center on the Beilinson Hospital campus, Petah Tikva.

Appearing in the concert were Ganit Polin and the Rediviva Ensemble, flautist Moshe Epstein and pianist Revital Hachamoff, Trio alla Moderna (recorder trio) — Michael Melzer, Eyal Lerner and Yael Shimshoni, and the Israel Philharmonic Brass Quartet — Ram Oren, Sarit Wolfus, Micha Davis and Michael Slatkin. The artistic director was Ori Golan.

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